

Once it became clear that Hurricane Katrina would disrupt the education of thousands of students attending universities located along the Gulf Coast, DePaul University opened its doors. As of September 9, DePaul had accepted 150 displaced students.

DePaul has offered special tuition grants to their visiting students, requesting that they make tuition payments to their home university. DePaul has also taken steps to secure additional financial aid for these students.

The students at DePaul have also taken action to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. By September 9, these students had raised more than \$5,000 to purchase supplies to be sent to the Gulf Coast. Many campus groups, including student athletes, Student Leaders Emerging, S.A.V.E., and DePaul chapters of the NAACP and Target Hope, have organized relief efforts. Other DePaul students are exploring ways to assist displaced Gulf Coast residents who have migrated to Chicago after evacuating from their homes.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is faced with an unprecedented challenge. Caring for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and helping them rebuild their lives will require the dedication of all Americans. I am proud of the efforts of the students, faculty and administration of DePaul University in response to this national tragedy, and of similar efforts in colleges and universities throughout Chicago and across the country.

HONORING EVA HALLER AND
COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great organization, Counterpart International, and a tireless advocate, Eva Haller.

For 40 years Counterpart International has done extraordinary work, first helping South Pacific countries move from colonialism to independence, and then expanding their efforts to assist the growth of democracy in Africa, Latin America, Eurasia, and around the Caribbean. This global organization's strategy is to engage people in their own communities through education and exchange programs that teach the skills necessary for citizens to strengthen their homeland's independence from within.

Counterpart also brings together and draws upon the support of governments, corporations, and individuals to accomplish this goal. Their approach relies on "smart partnerships" which engage all sectors and benefit all participants. These two principles increase the likelihood of success where other development programs fail.

Another key element in Counterpart's success is my dear friend and constituent Eva Haller. As a board member of Counterpart she has emphasized a focus on women, the environment, and preservation of cultures. She is a passionate and tenacious advocate for all people who need help, be they children, poverty stricken families, or the populations of far off land struggling to become free. With her international outlook she knows that those of us who live in the United States, the wealthiest country in the world, have a special duty

to be generous with our time, money, and cares.

Eva is a tremendous example for us all to live up to and I am proud to recognize the incredible work that she does on her own and with Counterpart International. It is no accident that the organization will honor Eva, among others, at its 40th anniversary benefit reception in New York on September 21. In these trying times there is more and more need for the leadership that Eva and Counterpart International exemplify.

THE POVERTY LEVEL IN OUR NATION IS UNACCEPTABLE—IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about poverty in our nation—the harsh reality of which played out painfully for all of the world to see after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast region.

The televised images of hardship, death and despair from New Orleans may have opened the doors to this nation's reservoir of compassion—but something more than a momentary outpouring of conscience will be required to keep those doors from slamming shut again once the television spotlights dim.

Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath revealed the harsh realities of poverty in America. The heartbreaking visions of lost children searching for their families, elderly people trapped in their homes, diabetics suffering without their insulin and corpses floating in the streets have the potential to become a transforming event.

That potential will be realized, however, only if Americans of conscience join together in a national movement to end poverty in America.

Once again, a generation of Americans must find within ourselves the courage, optimism and organizational skills that will allow us to demand an end to the poverty that underscored the New Orleans tragedy—and to make permanent our demand for positive change.

The road toward achieving this goal must begin, as all missions of change begin, in our personal experience as a people. Consider two families who have been transformed by the New Orleans disaster—whom I will call the Jones and Smith families. I am using fictitious names and relaying a blended story to protect their privacy—but quite frankly Mr. Speaker their stories are a common refrain from the Katrina fallout.

Prior to this storm, Mr. and Mrs. Jones lived in public housing with their three children. Neither parent had a high school diploma and—as a result—they lived in a neighborhood surrounded by unemployment and poverty.

If it had not been for Hurricane Katrina, the Jones family might never have met the Smiths, a middle-aged couple who live in an upscale suburban home hundreds of miles away.

The Smiths were haunted by the suffering that they were witnessing on their television screen. Called to take action by their church, they reached out to the Jones family and gave them a place to live in the basement of their home. The impact of their generosity has been profound.

Before the storm and the flood, Mr. Jones had been unemployed due to layoffs at the New Orleans oil refinery where he had worked. Now, one of Mr. Smith's neighbors, a lumber yard supervisor, has given Mr. Jones a job—and the Smiths are helping the Jones family research GED programs that can help them get even better jobs.

Across America, churches and good people like the Smiths are coming together to provide the shelter, warm meals, clothing and other help that will allow many of the survivors of Hurricane Katrina to rebuild their lives. School districts have opened their classrooms to the more than 372,000 students displaced by the storm. Government and non-profit organizations are holding job fairs to help those who have been displaced find employment.

We cannot remake the past, but we can give meaning to the staggering toll of those who have suffered and died as a result of this national tragedy. That is what the Smith family is doing, and they deserve our applause.

Yet, if the debacle in New Orleans is truly to become a "tipping point" that guides this nation toward a more just and humane society, something more than individual acts of compassion will be required.

Consider these facts. In New Orleans before the storm, three out of every ten residents lived below the poverty line—and at least 37 million Americans (including 13 million American children) are now living in poverty nationwide.

In fact, the number of Americans falling into poverty increased again last year for the fourth straight year. While the economy grew 3.8%, median income has remained flat for the fifth straight year at \$44,389. Income inequality is at an all time high with 50.1 percent of income going to the top 20 percent of households—where only the top 5 percent of income earners saw an increase in real income gains in 2004 according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Mr. Speaker, it is an undisputable fact that many of the victims of Hurricane Katrina were victims of poverty and neglect.

However, I believe like many of my colleagues that they should not have to wait for our compassion until another disaster brings with it their televised deaths in our streets.

At the federal level, we must demand that those who now control both the Congress and the White House back up the words of compassion that they speak. That is why I have joined House Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI in urging that the House Republicans set aside their plan to cut the federal budget by \$35 billion to help pay for another \$70 billion tax cut for the rich.

Americans need to know that, while the Republican leadership expresses compassion for this nation's poorest citizens, they are planning to cut \$10 billion from Medicaid, \$9 billion from federal student aid, and additional tens of billions of dollars from the federal food stamp program, public housing assistance, Head Start, public education and job training programs.

As a nation, we can do better than this. Shortly after the New Orleans tragedy touched our Nation, I offered this challenge to the Bush Administration and its allies in the Congress.

"We cannot allow it to be said by history," I declared at a Washington press conference, "that the difference between those who lived and those who died in the great storm and

flood of 2005 was nothing more than poverty, age or skin color.”

This, I submit, is the continuing challenge of poverty in America—a challenge that will continue to test the moral fabric of our Nation. I applaud my colleague Representative BARBARA LEE, for her tireless efforts to shine a bright light on America's economic disparities and resultant poverty. I hope that her bill H. Con. Res. 234, serves to allow us to begin to discuss and to address solutions to ending poverty in this country. To do so, I firmly believe that we have to rethink how our federal fiscal and social policies are lending significantly to the poverty problem.

A moral people would take up this challenge. A moral people would understand that it is time for a change.

TIME TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT HURRICANE KATRINA COMMISSION

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, this is to register my support for the legislation, H.R. 3764, to establish an independent commission to study the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

The disaster brought by Hurricane Katrina is indisputable. The failure of government agencies and elected officials to effectively minimize the suffering and death of the victims in the Gulf Coast is indefensible.

History will record the Katrina disaster as a turning point in this nation's history. When the waters rose and the levees burst, the world watched as thousands of sick and elderly Americans, thousands of poor families with young children cried out for food and water. American citizens who trusted the advice of the government were abandoned in an evacuated city without food or water, without plumbing, without law enforcement, without transportation and without hope. The pictures we saw were nothing short of unbelievable. Mr. Speaker, in September 2005 the image of America was forever changed in the eyes of the entire world.

As a nation we can no longer pretend that all Americans have the opportunity to share in the wealth of this great nation. The winds of Katrina exposed the truth to all Americans and to all the world.

The very least this body must now do is to abandon the partisanship that has stifled public policy making for too many years. We are elected officials and our first responsibility is to represent the people—not to represent political parties. There should be no disagreement that whatever government did or did not do in response to Hurricane Katrina, we did not do our best. The mission failed. And it was not the failure of one person or the failure of one government agency or the failure of any political party—it was a collective failure. Now we must come together to do everything humanly possible to make certain that this never, ever happens again.

Mr. Speaker, we must establish an Independent Katrina Commission to assess the federal government's response to this hurricane and to determine what we must do to ef-

fectively respond to future large-scale catastrophes. The people of this nation expect nothing less. It would be stupid and it would be senseless for this body to even consider doing otherwise.

I implore my colleagues to remember the thousands of American citizens whose trust in our government was destroyed when their livelihoods were lost, their homes were washed away and the poor and the sick were left all alone to die. It will take a generation or more for most of the victims and their families to mend; this Congress must do everything possible to support them. The recovery of our nation is at stake. We must work to ensure that Katrina remains the single greatest natural disaster in our history. We need an Independent Katrina Commission to restore faith in this government and to ensure that we never again experience a preventable disaster.

RELATING TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor the more than 3,000 lives that were lost on one of the most tragic days in our history, September 11, 2001. Four years after this dreadful day, our Nation continues to mourn the loss of so many friends and family members, whose lives were cut short by previously unthinkable acts of terror.

In remembrance of the bravery of the passengers and crew on United Airlines Flight 93, I strongly supported Senate Concurrent Resolution 26, which pays tribute to their heroic efforts. Their decisive and brave decision to overtake the September 11 terrorists likely saved the lives of countless Congressional Members and staffers, as well as the U.S. Capitol or White House from almost certain destruction.

The San Jose community I represent was especially saddened by the loss of Captain Jason Matthew Dahl, the pilot of Flight 93 and a true American hero. Jason grew up in San Jose, and his parents used to deliver milk to Hillsdale Elementary School, where I served as principal. His courage and the courage of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 was reflective of the spirit displayed in abundance by so many Americans that day. Establishing a memorial as called for in Senate Concurrent Resolution 26 will be a permanent tribute to the 40 selfless individuals of Flight 93 who overcame fear and mobilized into action to defend their fellow Americans.

I hope that Congress will show that same kind of strength and focus in defense of our homeland. The campaign against terrorism will be a long-term engagement, but we owe it to the families of the victims of 9/11 to use all appropriate tools to ensure that such a tragedy will never happen again.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, and in special recognition of Hispanics in central Ohio and throughout our country.

During this designated month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of our friends and neighbors with Hispanic roots. Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the United States. The 2000 Census found that 35.3 million people identified themselves as Hispanic American. That represents a 58 percent increase from the 1990 Census.

Beyond the data, the reality is that Hispanics are an integral part of America's social fabric. I am proud that the State of Ohio is home to more than 217,000 residents of Hispanic/Latino descent. Hispanic Americans continue to make great strides in education, employment, health, homeownership, and economic mobility. This is a result of a set of values that includes a strong work ethic, family values, and service to community.

Hispanic Americans in central Ohio serve the community in numerous capacities. In particular, recent immigrants unfamiliar with the English language are served by Spanish interpreters who help provide them access to health care, education, legal assistance and other vital services. Mi Directorio Hispano, a business directory, and Spanish newspapers in central Ohio, like La Voz Hispana, connect Hispanics with the community and keep them informed. The Ohio Hispanic Coalition, a non-profit outreach organization, and the Ohio Commission of Hispanic/Latino Affairs serve as advocates for the needs of Hispanic people and help to promote good relations among the community-at-large.

Mr. Speaker, the Hispanic community is a vital part of central Ohio and our country. As we move forward as a nation, it is important to pursue policies that can further expand opportunities for Hispanic Americans. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in support and in honor of Hispanic Americans, their culture and traditions, and their work and service that contribute to the greatness of this Nation.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3132, CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I have asked for unanimous consent to be removed from the list of cosponsors on H.R. 3132. My name was added to the list unbeknownst to me and my staff due to a clerical mistake made by the House Judiciary Committee Majority Staff. For the record, I did not ask to be added to the list of cosponsors.

Sexual crimes against children are terrible and reprehensible acts. I believe that it is vital that we take every precaution to protect our