

other Bush crony entrepreneurs is crime running rampant. Third World citizens are not the only populations endangered by the corrupt behavior of their leaders. Decision making, driven by the criminal upward distribution of wealth by our greedy Republican rulers has made America a nation at great risk.

Massacres from General Nathan Bedford Forrest at Fort Pillow, to New York's "Black Monday," to the Charleston, South Carolina and the Tulsa, Oklahoma violent Black community destructions combined with the petty racism of everyday life; all of this never ending pressure has probably permanently altered the group political consciousness DNA of African-Americans. The new 98 percent disapproval rate for George Bush is a high point for a trend of consistent African-American voting for Presidents. Why can't more gullible mainstream Americans acquire similar insights? Why does the average American still want a President that they can feel comfortable with schmoozing over a beer in a bar? African-Americans want a President who through his policies will guarantee that they can afford to purchase that bottle of beer.

Using a label that is meant to be a demeaning slur, the media frequently refers to Blacks as "bread and butter voters". But in truth most voters are concerned first about economic issues. Certainly, the most influential and richest Republicans are concerned about tax cuts, insider trading opportunities, no bid contracts, earmarked legislative favors, etc. Concern for individual or group economic well-being is an appropriate position. But it is the obsession with maximizing advantages and the perks of "white privilege" that creates the venomous political poison threatening the survival of American democracy as it should be.

African Americans see a White House regime which maximizes already excessive "white privileges" at their expense. To force taxes lower the privileged have abandoned urban public schools all over America. The revenue starved New Orleans has produced the worst school system in America. The lack of arrangements for the transport of the poor out of the flood was just one of many examples of deadly public sector neglect. Is it absurd to ask the question; are we the only developed nation without a publicly financed universal health care program because whites don't want to see minorities getting more free services?

Is it possible that this drop of the President's approval among African Americans rating to two percent will become a bonus for the Republican Southern strategy advocates who have been recently overshadowed by moderate "apologizing" Republicans? Will there be a new right-wing battle cry to just write off the African American vote? This 98 percent disapproval rate is a landmark in polling statistics. Democrats must monitor the fallout diligently.

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DISASTER RECOVERY ACT OF 2005

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation to help our nation and this body address the important task of disaster recovery.

We are engaged in significant efforts to mitigate future disasters like Hurricane Katrina, and efforts to improve the way in which the aftermath of such disasters are handled. The Committee I Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure, held a hearing today on rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. Other Committees are investigating and exploring other aspects of the situation. But we will never legislate disasters away, and we will never improve recovery to the point where disasters are painless. Or inexpensive.

Now, we can argue for months—and we probably will—about what causes the disasters this country faces regularly. Wild fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes: They all have some human component that does at least contribute to the scope of the damage, if not the cause. But here now I would like to move beyond that discussion, and instead focus on what we know that we must do in the aftermath: raise and distribute funds to rebuild lives, repair infrastructure, and reforge communities.

We have so far appropriated \$62.3 billion for recovery efforts in the Gulf region. There was another \$8.5 appropriated for the Disaster Relief Fund for Fiscal Year 2005. Hurricane Katrina was a major disaster, but we have had others—there have been 1,572 major disaster declarations in the last 50 years, an average of 31 a year—and there will be more.

We must find a way to meet the inevitable needs that will arise after future disasters. We cannot continue deficit spending. After numerous discussions with others, and based upon the successful program during WWII, I would today like to introduce legislation to begin a "Disaster Recovery Bond" program, similar to Savings Bonds, but with the income from the bonds dedicated to disaster recovery. This money would supplement funds in the Disaster Recovery Fund, providing an additional pool of funds to be used during large scale disasters like Hurricane Katrina.

When a natural disaster—be it a hurricane, earthquake, tornado, or flood—hits a particular region or State, the rest of us can often feel disconnected because it's happening to "them" and not "us." Buying bonds that are specifically designated for these types of disasters can help bring together Americans and create a sense of patriotism. This idea of individual Americans pitching in for the good of the Nation was instrumental in the success of the War Bonds during WWII.

As a Nation, we are great at reacting. This was evident in the days and weeks after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita when the American people contributed millions of dollars to countless nonprofit organizations to assist their efforts in the affected Gulf Coast region. However, we need to think of the future and be more proactive. Purchasing Disaster Recovery Bonds will offer Americans an opportunity to contribute towards recovery and reconstruction efforts for natural disasters that have not yet occurred but are inevitable.

BILL PERMITTING EACH OF THE TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE A STATUE TO BE PLACED IN STATUARY HALL

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce legislation to permit American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico to provide one statue to be placed with the state statues in the Statuary Hall collection here in the Capitol Building. I want to thank my colleagues, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. FORTUÑO for joining me as original co-sponsors of this legislation.

On July 2, 1864, Congress enacted a law creating the National Statuary Hall. In the debate over what to do with the old House Chamber, Mr. Morrill in the House of Representatives proposed, "To what end more useful or grand, and at the same time simple and inexpensive, can we devote the Chamber than to ordain that it shall be set apart for the reception of such statuary as each State shall elect to be deserving of in this lasting commemoration?"

At the time of enactment, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico were not a part of the U.S. and were not included in Mr. Morrill's proposal. For this reason we come before you today to introduce legislation that would extend this same courtesy to Americans who live in the outlying areas of our great country. Each of our outlying areas has a unique history and a unique relationship to the United States. The annals of our territorial histories are replete with examples of outstanding leaders. To allow this legislation would be to honor these great citizens' contributions.

Also, this legislation would symbolically acknowledge that our U.S. Territories are an important, integral part of our national heritage. Imagine the pride a young person would feel, traveling here to our nation's capital from American Samoa, or the Virgin Islands, or Guam, or Puerto Rico, and seeing a statue of a person from their own territory's history, side by side with many of America's other significant historical figures.

Mr. Speaker, the funding for the commissioning and transportation of the statues would be borne by the territories themselves in the same manner as the statues from the states, meaning there would be no cost to the American taxpayer. Because this legislation provides a simple and inexpensive method for us here in Congress to educate Capitol visitors about the contributions of our outlying areas to our great nation, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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CRISTA LEWIS MEMORIAL

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on May 3, 1996, 16-year-old Christa

Lewis's life was cut tragically short after she was stabbed while attending a local carnival with her friends in the Philadelphia neighborhood of Tacony. The death of Christa Lewis stunned her family, friends and community.

At the time of her death, Christa Lewis was a sophomore honors student at St. Hubert's Catholic High School who excelled at soccer and lacrosse. Friends described Christa as fun-loving, popular and vivacious. Christa is survived by her parents, Joan and Greg Lewis, as well as two younger brothers, Bud and Evan and her younger sister, Cory.

Her sudden death shocked the close-knit community and shed light on the growing problem of youth violence. We all know how important it is that we address the overwhelming pressures that teenagers face during their developmental years. It is imperative that we do all we can to address violence done to and by teens that can lead to the tragic and untimely death of a young person.

In the aftermath of her murder Christa's entire community rallied around the Lewis family

as well as worked to ensure the safety of area residents. Since her death nearly 10 years ago, many people have worked hard to keep Christa's memory alive. Members of the community organized sports tournaments and local dinners to benefit the Christa Lewis Memorial Fund, a non-profit organization that supports local children and schools. On October 3, 1997, the Historical Society of Tacony also dedicated the Christa Lewis Memorial Arboretum in Disson Park.

On October 15, I joined Christa's family at the unveiling of the seventh series of memorial stones at the Christa Lewis Memorial Arboretum. Christa's father said at the initial dedication of the arboretum that it was to be used by the community—including the Tacony and Mayfair sections of Northeast Philadelphia—to honor and reflect on the memory of their loved ones. It is now filled with stones and trees memorializing friends, family and loved ones from throughout the community.

Although Christa sadly lost her life at such a young age, the park serves as a place of love and remembrance. This past weekend, I was honored to join Christa's family in celebrating her life, spirit and the memory of so many others at the arboretum.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 18, 2005*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 17, 2005, I was unable to be present on the floor to vote on rollcall votes Nos. 521, 522 and 523. If I had been present, on rollcall vote 521 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote 522 I would have voted "yea," and on rollcall vote 523 I would have voted "yea."