

I know that this compassion will continue and I encourage all Americans to do what ever they can to help our fellow citizens in their most desperate time of need. However, I am troubled to see instances of greed in this time of desperate need. I have heard already from a number of my constituents who saw the price of gas skyrocket. I, along with other Members of Congress, will be looking into any instances of price gouging. In such a time of despair for so many, price gouging can not be tolerated.

Once again, I want to express my condolences to those who have lost loved ones in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and to share my prayers of hope for those who remain in despair. I know that much remains to be done and I am hopeful that the funding we are providing today will go a long way to meeting the desperate needs of those in the Gulf Coast. The full story of this disaster remains to be told, but I am confident that out of dark moments of this tragedy will come beacons of light for those affected and a serious discussion about our true national priorities.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and individuals devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Reports that displaced residents in New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast are unable to receive medical attention and basic supplies are truly horrible. This is an unacceptable situation for the wealthiest country in the world. The conditions are desperate and the full force of the Federal Government must be turned towards helping those in need.

The Federal Government is prepared to provide an unprecedented level of disaster assistance, starting today with a \$10.5 billion emergency aid package.

The recovery effort has raised several issues that must be addressed. First, once the immediate need for medical assistance, food and other resources is met, the massive job of providing housing in different communities throughout the country for the thousands of displaced victims must be undertaken. This will require an unprecedented level of coordination between federal, state and local governments and the private sector. Also, decisions must be made in terms of the reconstruction of the areas most devastated, in a manner that ensures that a tragedy of this magnitude will not repeat itself.

Second, the alleged unwillingness of the federal personnel assigned to the disaster to use the resources available to them in a timely fashion must be investigated. The fact that there was one instance of a military helicopter being fired upon is not an excuse for helicopters not to land or buses not to transport people. Questions with regard to class, race and discriminatory attitudes must be addressed in a candid and constructive manner.

Third, the personnel and agencies responsible for responding to this disaster are the same as the nation would call on in the event of a terrorist attack. Their present response, in the President's words, has been unacceptable and inexcusable. We must ensure that future responses are dramatically different.

In the coming days and weeks ahead, I encourage every American to consider volunteering to help our fellow citizens in this time of great need. My offices have received hundreds of phone calls from constituents who are eager to help in anyway possible, and this will allow the generosity of the human spirit to prevail.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the bill is considered read and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 51

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, September 1, or on Friday, September 2, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12 noon on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, September 2, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### HURRICANE KATRINA

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to show compassion and readiness to work with our neighbors who are in crisis. I represent a State, West Virginia, that has had numerous flooding disasters. Collectively, we will do everything we can to help those in need. The number one priority now is the families and children who are affected. The photos from

these areas are gut wrenching, and I am sure we are just beginning to hear the heartbreaking stories. Our responses must be quicker and stronger. I know our compassion as a Nation is incredible and we are frustrated by the enormity of this crisis.

As West Virginians, we have been helped time and time again. Like those affected in this disaster action, we are hardworking, country-loving, patriotic, respectful citizens. We now wish to return our compassion to those in need. Our State has started fund drives, deployed utility professionals, our National Guard, and other means of help. We will continue. Our hearts are joined in prayer to those who need prayers the most, to give them the strength and the willpower to rebuild and go on. We will stand together to recover and rebuild the lives and the cities. This is the nature of our country and its people.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to show compassion and readiness to work to help our neighbors who are in crisis. I represent a state, West Virginia, that has had numerous flooding disasters and collectively we will do everything that we can to help those in this devastating situation.

The number one priority right now is the welfare of the families and children in their time of need. The photos from the area are gut-wrenching and we have only just begun to hear the heart breaking stories of the destruction of lives and properties.

Our responses must be quicker and stronger as we reach out to the despair. I know that our compassion as a nation is incredible and we are frustrated by the enormity of the crisis. The funding we provide today will be significant but will only take us so far.

In recent disasters around this Nation we have seen the worst of destruction that can come from both man and from nature: but the best of society. We have seen the power of this Nation when it comes together to assist those in need. In the coming hours and days, we have got to press forward to help in every way.

As West Virginians, we have been helped time and again. Like those affected in this disaster, we are hard working, country loving, patriotic, respectful citizens. We now wish to return our compassion in your hour of need. Our State has started fund drives, deployed utility professionals, sent our National Guard and other means of help. We will continue. Our hearts are joined in prayers to give those in need the strength and willpower to rebuild and go on.

To that end, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army need our support to continue their efforts on the ground. We are grateful to those who are on the ground from all emergency organizations in the Gulf Coast area to assist those who have been affected.

We will stand together to recover and rebuild the lives and cities. That is the nature of this country and its people.

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#### HURRICANE KATRINA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that FEMA's immediate focus is to provide relief for the victims in the Gulf States, but I take this time to ask the agency to reconsider its decision to deny South Florida individual assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As my Florida colleagues and I stated in a letter to the FEMA director, he has the authority to provide such assistance and I urge him promptly to do so.

I commend our Governor, Jeb Bush, for his efforts in deploying personnel and equipment to the impacted States, and I especially applaud his strong actions against price gouging. Members of Florida's extensive team of emergency response vessel crews, search and rescue teams, National Guardsmen and emergency management officials will continue to deploy from Florida to support operations in the impacted areas. These efforts represent Florida's largest State-to-State assistance in history. South Florida was devastated by Hurricane Andrew 13 years ago. We understand how long it will take for these Gulf State victims to recover economically, physically, and emotionally.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak about the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

I come from an area and a State that knows first hand the tragedy and suffering that can be caused by a hurricane of the magnitude of Katrina.

It is therefore from within this deep understanding that we extend our thoughts and prayers to all whose lives have been affected by this deadly disaster.

I fully support providing all the necessary assistance and funding and emphasize the need to use every available resource to aid all the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

I recognize that FEMA's immediate focus is to provide relief for the victims in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, but ask FEMA to reconsider its decision to deny South Florida Individual Assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

As my colleagues and I stated in a letter to Undersecretary Michael Brown, FEMA has the authority to provide such individual assistance and should promptly exercise such authority.

I am pleased that the State of Florida has responded so quickly to New Orleans and Mississippi.

The State has deployed personnel, equipment and commodities to Mississippi to aid response and recovery from the overwhelming impact of Hurricane Katrina.

In the hours and days after the catastrophic storm, Governor Jeb Bush pledged the support of Florida to Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour.

I must commend Governor Bush for his outstanding efforts, especially for taking strong action against price gougers, and for expressing his solidarity with the people so severely impacted in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Resources from Florida were mobilized through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Tons of food and money collected in South Florida are ready to be sent to ravaged Gulf Coast States.

Florida's State Emergency Response Team is supporting local officials and federal responders with search and rescue missions and emergency management operations in Mississippi.

Members of Florida's extensive team of emergency response vessel crews, search and rescue teams, National Guardsmen and emergency management officials will continue to deploy as needed to support operations in the impacted area.

These efforts represent Florida's largest State-to-State assistance in history.

I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to all those who have joined in efforts to provide assistance, especially all volunteers, representatives of the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the National Guard, the Reserves, Emergency and law enforcement personnel, and Department of Health medical assistance resources.

Hurricane Katrina, and the devastating after-effects, has severely impacted many staff and Members of our own Congressional Community.

Specifically, the coastal districts of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi were most hard hit. Staff and Members from these areas have been personally affected and in some cases their district offices were either severely damaged or destroyed.

Although my home State of Florida, and especially my Congressional district in South Florida, were hit hard by Hurricane Katrina, we were fortunate that the damage was not as severe as was initially anticipated.

Yet, the damage incurred has serious long-term ramifications for the welfare of our State.

Thousands of constituents have suffered severe damage to their home and property, in addition to enduring power outages and lack of communications.

The Florida agriculture community was one of the hardest hit. Katrina's unexpected jog south caught many South Miami-Dade nurseries and groves unprepared.

As the agricultural community reels, the farmers, growers, and laborers who depend on the industry for their livelihood are tense with uncertainty.

Katrina's high waters and heavy winds inundated acres of agriculture.

Crop loss in Miami has been estimated at \$427 million and economic loss is estimated at \$691 million.

This loss will have far reaching effects as Miami-Dade's billion dollar agricultural industry is second to tourism as the areas top source of income.

It is clear that this is a nationwide issue that requires a nationwide response.

Our country's strength has always derived from the character, courage, and compassion of our people and, together, we will help each other through this difficult period and prevail over the devastation.

#### HURRICANE KATRINA

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in January I traveled to Aceh, Puquet and Colombo and saw American

foreign aid save the lives of tens of thousands of people ravaged by the tsunami. Two weeks ago, I was in Darfur, Sudan and visited refugee and IDP camps in that war-ravaged area and saw firsthand U.S. taxpayer funds and U.S. leadership saving and rebuilding the lives of hundreds of thousands of Africans. But charity begins at home, Mr. Speaker, and we must leave no stone unturned in our effort to save the lives of Americans, our neighbors, devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Today's appropriation is a downpayment. It is a beginning of an aggressive humanitarian effort that will take months, even years, to rebuild the lives of those shattered people. Today we say to the suffering, we will do whatever it takes to save lives, to mitigate disease, and rebuild.

#### HURRICANE KATRINA

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we heard today the majority whip describe a domestic Marshall Plan for rebuilding the southeast United States and particularly the Port of Orleans and the city of New Orleans. I want to just mention how proud I am of the State of Texas, the Governor of Texas, who opened his arms to refugees from Louisiana 400 miles away. We have refugees from Louisiana all over north Texas right now, right next to my district office in Fort Worth, Texas. Last night I spent time with a mother who had been separated from her newborn baby, spent time with a child who had been separated from his parents, truly heart-wrenching stories from this area that were so badly hit by the hurricane.

I want to thank Attorney General Greg Abbott for his strong stand against price gouging. I want to thank American Airlines for freeing up assets to fly equipment down to New Orleans or to Baton Rouge and to bring people back. I want to thank DFW Airport for stepping up to the plate immediately and offering their assistance. This has been a widespread effort across North Texas. People have opened their hearts, their homes and their wallets. I trust this exercise will continue. I am now glad that the Congress is here and passed this money to help with the recovery.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.