

"GIT'R DONE"

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank Texans that are helping our neighbors from across the Sabine River in Louisiana. The amazing hurricane relief efforts being organized in the State of Texas are a model for compassion, concern, and competence. The city of Houston, following the leadership of Mayor Bill White, is housing over 40,000 individuals from New Orleans. The Houston Astrodome has been opened up under the supervision of Harris County Judge Robert Echols and is housing close to 20,000 people. Next door in Jefferson County under the direction of Judge Carl Griffith, they are housing more than 1,800 people in their county complex. Altogether close to a quarter of a million displaced persons from Louisiana are being taken care of by Texas.

Mr. Speaker, there are those who have done nothing in this disaster except criticize and complain. I instead rise to praise and encourage. I would like to thank Mayor White, Judge Echols, Judge Griffith, and the thousands of volunteers across the State of Texas for showing us what character and compassion are all about. I know they will continue to "git'r done."

DEALING WITH NATURAL
DISASTERS IN THE FUTURE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as we all reel from the devastation of Katrina, what is surprising is that so many claim to have been surprised by an event both predictable and inevitable.

This is the moment when the Nation's attention is trained upon not just this tragedy but what we must do to prevent future unnecessary suffering and loss. Today with a majority of Americans at risk from natural disasters, this is more important than ever for us to get the job done right.

Four years ago, we got it wrong as FEMA lost its focus in the vast Homeland Security bureaucracy. We need to listen to each other this time and to the consensus of independent experts. We need to deal with the long term and to find an appropriate Federal role. We need to use the forces of nature to protect against the power of nature. We must assure that each step along the way that we take as a Congress leaves our communities more liveable and our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF JUSTICE
WILLIAM REHNQUIST

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers are with the Rehnquist family and our Nation. As we celebrate the life of Chief Justice William Rehnquist today, we mourn the loss of a true leader who made the most of his unique opportunity to help the American people. He was a skilled judge and a brilliant man who devoted over a third of his life to ensuring that our highest Court fairly upheld our laws.

From fighting excessive Federal laws as an Associate Justice to battling cancer as Chief Justice, Rehnquist embodied determination and conviction throughout his tenure. Often the lone vote on an issue, he remained true to his conservative beliefs and worked tirelessly to ensure that justice was fairly delivered, and efficiently. Because of his monumental impact on our legal system, he earned a valuable place in our Nation's history.

As his family and friends gather today, I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude for the life and work of Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HURRICANE KATRINA AND THE
IMPACT ON LATINOS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, last week the world witnessed the devastating impact of one of the greatest calamities the United States has ever faced. Hurricane Katrina left hundreds of thousands of people without their livelihood and homes and many more without a sense of hope and esperanza.

As shelters across the United States open their arms to evacuees, we must remember all the vulnerable communities which are suffering tremendously in the wake of this natural disaster, including the immigrant population that resides in the embattled areas of the Nation.

More than 150,000 Hondurans, 100,000 Mexicans, and a host of other individuals who live in that particular area, these are immigrants and their families who have contributed significantly to the social and economic fabric of the gulf coast, working in casinos, on farms, in hotels, construction sites, and also in janitorial services. I feel strongly that these immigrants and their families cannot be forgotten in this crisis.

Just as we embrace all the victims of disaster, I hope and I know that the Federal Government will do the same without regard to race, ethnicity, and country of origin. Let us not forget that these individuals contribute every single day to our Nation.

EDWARD M. REUTINGER

(Mr. NEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a great American, Edward M. Reutinger. Edward Reutinger passed away on August 25, 2005, from a stroke at the age of 58. He was a Green Township trustee in Ross County, Ohio, for 12 years and planned on renewing his public service to Ohio this November by running for trustee again.

Edward Reutinger was a devoted family man and a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and uncle. He and his wife were set to celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary this year.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Reutinger represents some of the best that Ohio and America have to offer. I want to remember him for his upstanding citizenship and for the love he had for his township and his country. May God rest his soul.

HURRICANE KATRINA AND
AFRICAN AMERICANS

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have been through some of the worst hurricanes in the last quarter of a century. They were experiences I never want to go through again, but none comes close to the devastation especially in the lives of the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. I would have thought that there would have been some institutional history and expertise at FEMA that would have dictated a more appropriate preparation and immediate lifesaving response. Obviously, I was wrong and lives were lost.

What I have not been wrong about is what my CBC colleagues and I have been telling this body over and over again for a long time, that African Americans are left out and left behind in just about every facet of American life. Now the entire country and the whole world has seen it in its most stark and tragic reality.

If nothing else comes out of the devastation we have witnessed over the past week, it should be that we forge the will and determination and the leadership of this Nation to close the gaps; to eliminate the disparities; and, finally, after all of these centuries, ensure fairness, equality, and justice for all and that all Americans be finally embraced into the fullness of the promise that is America.

THE BEST OF HUMAN NATURE

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, over the Labor Day weekend, I had the opportunity to go to Baton Rouge not as a Member of Congress but as a physician and to work in the River Center where the evacuees, over 5,000, so many of them were there, and to help provide basic health care needs.

What I saw in Louisiana was the best of human nature: a level of confusion, of course, and some disorganization, but people pulling together and trying to do the best they could in a difficult situation.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle at a time like this, probably the greatest tragedy this Nation has ever seen, to pull together, avoid the temptation to get into a finger-pointing, blaming situation, and let us see as a result of this the best of the human nature of this Congress.

FEMA

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman who went before me: we should see the best of human nature and we should all join together, and hopefully Congress and the administration can do better in the relief and the rebuilding efforts than they did in the prevention and disaster response.

But it is a time to learn and reform because it may only be days or weeks until we have another devastating hurricane, who knows when the terrorists will attack, and have we learned any lessons since 9/11.

A gentleman before me said we will never forget. We have forgotten. There were no interoperable secure communications. They want to blame New Orleans for that. Guess what, the Bush administration zeroed out interoperable communications in the Homeland Security budget. The Bush administration insisted that FEMA had to go into Homeland Security. I joined with 163 Members of this House saying no, that will degrade FEMA. FEMA has been degraded. They have a political hack as their head.

Changes need to be made now, and urgently, because the next disaster may strike tomorrow. And if the response is as poor as it was in this emergency, more people will die needlessly.

PULLING TOGETHER

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we all watched in disbelief as the desperation of fellow Americans rolled across our TV screens waving from rooftops in New Orleans, waiting to be saved. And as the hours rolled by, it became clear that our response, our response, at the local, State, and Federal levels was lacking.

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Hurricane Katrina is the largest natural disaster in the history of our Nation, affecting an area the size of the entire State of Michigan. Any response would have been lacking for some. There will be opportunities in Congress and elsewhere to evaluate that re-

sponse, but now is the time for all Americans to pull together and work together to get millions of our fellow citizens back on their feet. Now is the time for the American spirit to shine.

We are a giving and a generous country, and millions of Americans are desperate to help. There are so many avenues of opportunity.

Our Nation has faced huge challenges before, and we know how to succeed in the face of adversity. We succeed by marshaling that American spirit and by working together. Together, it is imperative that now we in Congress and across our Nation move forward with that uniquely American can-do, never-fail attitude.

HELP THE REAL VICTIMS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, our prayers are with the families who are still displaced, those who have lost loved ones, and those who have yet to locate friends and family.

Last week we offered a \$10.5 billion down payment on a long-term rebuilding effort, and I hope this initial commitment will send a clear message to the victims that the American people stand ready to help during their time of need.

But I am concerned about politics. I have been around long enough to recognize opportunism when I see it. Some Democrats are already using this opportunity to impugn the integrity of the President with blame and finger-pointing. Though it is appropriate to determine what went wrong, I am afraid that they may have another agenda.

Now is the time for all of us to work together to help those in need. Lest we forget who they are, here is a hint: They do not work here in the Capitol, they do not run for political office, they live in refugee camps in a dozen States because their homes and lives were destroyed by Katrina.

BEING RESPONSIBLE WITH OUR NATION'S RESOURCES

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, we have already made a down payment of \$10.5 billion. We will do another \$50 billion likely later this week, as we should.

I want to encourage my colleagues in our leadership to seek out offsets. When a family has an emergency, they will sometimes put it on a credit card or plan for it some other way. Our credit is just about at its limit, and we have to dig deep within ourselves and say, how are we going to pay for this? What else are we going to cut?

I have many suggestions. A prescription drug benefit that will go into ef-

fect next year has about a \$40 billion price tag for 1 year. That will be a great place to start. We just passed a massive transportation bill that we ought to have revisions on. There are many ways that we can look for the money, but we have to find the money somewhere, and we should not simply assume that we can spend new money and that everything will go along just fine.

We have to be responsible with the Nation's resources.

PULLING TOGETHER AS A NATION

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing the entire coast of Georgia from Savannah to Brunswick to St. Mary's, Georgia, and during my 14 years in Congress, we have had a number of tropical depressions and hurricanes, and we have had to evacuate and so forth. And we have been hit, but certainly not to the degree that the gulf has been.

Yet, one thing I know from that experience is that you do not sit around and point fingers. You get folks their basic needs after a storm. You get them water, you get them food, you get them shelter, you get them electricity, you get them medical attention, you get them transportation. These things are what we need to be doing right now.

Sure, we can sit around in Louisiana and say, why was the National Guard not ordered, and who is in charge of that? Why were the 4,000 buses in New Orleans not activated? Who is in charge of that? We could say, why was the evacuation of New Orleans only made on Sunday, the day beforehand? We can sit around and do that, but that is not going to help people who rightfully need medical attention, food, and water.

This is the time to pull together as a Nation, as different people from all over the States with different perspectives and different social statuses and different income brackets, to unify into one and help those on the ground who need our help the most.

The United States Congress is doing that. We passed the emergency bill for disaster relief last Friday and we will do it again this week. We are going to continue to pull together to get this recovery going as fast and as orderly as possible.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 423, HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, CAREER, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM HUBBS REHNQUIST UPON HIS DEATH

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it