

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

shall be in order at any time to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 423); the resolution shall be considered as read; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 423.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, CAREER, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM HUBBS REHNQUIST UPON HIS DEATH

Mr. SENENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House entered into previously today, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 423) honoring and recognizing the distinguished service, career, and achievements of Chief Justice William Hubbs Rehnquist upon his death, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of House Resolution 423 is as follows:

H. RES. 423

Whereas William H. Rehnquist was born on October 1, 1924, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and grew up the son of a paper salesman;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist served the United States in the Army Air Corps during World War II;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist attended and graduated from Stanford University, earning a bachelor's and master's degree in political science, and a second master's degree in government from Harvard University;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist went on to graduate first in his class at Stanford Law School in 1952, where he met his wife Natalie "Nan" Cornell;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist and Natalie had three children: James, Janet, and Nancy;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist served as a law clerk to Justice Robert H. Jackson on the Supreme Court during the 1951 and 1952 terms, and as Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, where he advised the Nixon Administration on constitutional law from 1969 until 1971;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist was appointed by President Nixon and confirmed by

the Senate as an Associate Justice of the United States on December 10, 1971, at the age of 47;

Whereas William H. Rehnquist was appointed by President Reagan and confirmed by the Senate as the 16th Chief Justice of the United States in 1986;

Whereas Chief Justice Rehnquist's 33-year tenure on the Supreme Court was one of the longest and most influential in the Nation's history;

Whereas legal scholars of all perspectives rank Chief Justice Rehnquist as among the great Chief Justices of the United States who influenced the interpretation of the law in significant ways;

Whereas Chief Justice Rehnquist was widely respected for his evenhandedness as Chief Justice; and

Whereas on January 7, 2002, the 30th Anniversary of his swearing in at the Supreme Court, Justice John Paul Stevens praised Chief Justice Rehnquist for "the efficiency, good humor and absolute impartiality that you have consistently displayed when presiding at our Conferences": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of Chief Justice Rehnquist; and

(2) honors, recognizes, and expresses gratitude for the distinguished service, career, and achievements of William H. Rehnquist upon his death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENENBRENNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENENBRENNER).

Mr. SENENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 423 which honors and recognizes the distinguished service, career, and achievements of Chief Justice William Hubbs Rehnquist upon his death.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Chief Justice Rehnquist means that a long and distinguished career has come to an end. William Rehnquist was born on October 1, 1924, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and was raised in nearby Shorewood, Wisconsin, which currently lies in the congressional district I am proud to represent. The future Chief Justice attended Kenyon College briefly before joining the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

Following his career in the Army, Chief Justice Rehnquist attended and graduated from Stanford University, where he received a bachelor's and master's degree in political science and a second master's degree in government from Harvard University.

At Stanford Law School, the future Chief Justice graduated first in the class that famously included his future colleague, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. It was also at Stanford Law School that the Chief Justice met his future wife, Natalie "Nan" Cornell, whom he married in 1953.

After graduation, William Rehnquist clerked for Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson for the 1952 and 1953

terms. He then went on to practice as an attorney in his adopted home State of Arizona for several years before returning to Washington, DC, to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, where he advised the Nixon administration on constitutional law from 1969 until 1971.

On October 22, 1971, President Nixon nominated William Rehnquist to fill the vacancy on the United States Supreme Court created by Justice John Marshall Harlan's retirement. The Senate confirmed him to the post of Associate Justice on December 10, 1971, and he was sworn into office on January 7, 1972, at the age of 47.

Under his leadership, federalism, judicial restraint, and State autonomy once again became staple features of the Court's jurisprudence. Chief Justice Rehnquist deeply respected the proper roles of each branch of government and the separation of powers envisioned by our Founders. He repeatedly acknowledged that the first amendment to the Constitution guaranteed the free exercise of religion.

By the time President Reagan nominated him to become the 16th Chief Justice of the United States on June 20, 1986, to replace Warren Burger, the pieces were in place for the Chief Justice to make a profound impact on American jurisprudence. His commitment to his principles were evidenced in his majority opinion upholding Cleveland, Ohio's program of school vouchers, which allowed public school students in poor areas to use vouchers to attend better, and often religious, schools, against an Establishment Clause challenge. His support for freedom of religion was also evidenced in his concurring opinion of *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, in which he rightly concluded that the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance was not a violation of the Establishment Clause.

Most recently, Chief Justice Rehnquist joined Justice O'Connor's dissent in *Kelo v. City of New London* in which they correctly concluded that it is a violation of the fifth amendment's Public Use Clause when a government takes private property and gives it to another private entity to use for private commercial purposes.

Apart from the doctrinal changes the Chief Justice brought to the Court, he also streamlined the manner in which the Court operated. His keen intellect and evenhandedness were appreciated by all of his colleagues. On the 30th anniversary of Rehnquist's swearing in, Justice John Paul Stevens, who often found himself on the opposite side of opinions from the Chief Justice, praised him for the "efficiency, good humor, and absolute impartiality that you have consistently displayed when presiding at our conferences." These traits have led observers of all political persuasions to view Chief Justice Rehnquist as one of the most consequential jurists in our history.