

life. The Disaster Plan Act will reauthorize FEMA's predisaster mitigation grant program. None of us can stop natural disasters from happening, but we can and we must be prepared for what happens when a disaster occurs. Project Impact was a program that worked in a FEMA that worked, and now we need to bring it back.

SAVING LIVES AND DOLLARS IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, each week I come before Congress to remind my colleagues of areas of health care where we can save lives and money. This week I want to mention that timely prenatal care, or medical care for women before pregnancy, can also save lives and money. One million American women deliver babies annually without receiving prenatal care, and in the United States more than 250,000 low birth weight infants are born each year who may subsequently have higher risk for various handicaps, heart defects, respiratory illnesses, et cetera. Women who are diabetic or are depressed have higher risk for this. The average costs in investing to help save these risks can save us between \$1 and \$4 when providing prenatal care and reducing neonatal intensive care costs later. It is a good investment for America to continue, and public-private partnerships are a way of continuing to do this.

I recommend Congress continue to look favorably on funding those programs that help provide prenatal care to continue to save lives and money.

For further information, I suggest my colleagues go to my Web site, murphy.house.gov, to learn about this and other ways that we can save lives and dollars in health care costs.

CALLING FOR A BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON KATRINA

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the finger-pointing continues. Today's New York Times reports on its interview with former FEMA head Michael Brown. In the interview, Mr. Brown blames Louisiana's Governor and Homeland Security Director Chertoff for inaction in responding to the crisis.

Mr. Brown's statements can probably be discounted as the words of a disgraced individual trying to save face, but the facts speak for themselves: government at all levels failed in the wake of Katrina's devastation. A KnightRidder story makes it clear based on a 2003 Presidential directive that Homeland Security Director Chertoff is the line authority for natural disasters, yet for 36 hours he was nowhere to be found.

Questions need to be answered, not to fix blame but to fix a problem. For example, how were Mr. Brown and his political deputies, all with no experience in disaster response, appointed as head of FEMA? Why did it take so long to get food and water to New Orleans? To answer them, this body should create a bipartisan commission of experts to investigate the failures and flaws in the system just like we did during 9/11, just like we did during Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Speaker, hundreds died. Tens of thousands have lost everything. Billions will be spent rebuilding the infrastructure. The stakes are simply too high to not know what went wrong. Americans do not want Pollyannish speeches or a whitewash. They want answers and results. Mr. Speaker, we need a bipartisan 9/11-style commission not only to find out what went wrong but to give us recommendations to fix the problem.

CONFIRM JUDGE ROBERTS

(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, yesterday a judge in San Francisco ruled the Pledge of Allegiance, which we just said, is unconstitutional. Again, it is disturbing how a judge can strike down a voluntary act of patriotic expression. Any reading of the founding documents reveals that the first amendment was written to guarantee the right of expression. That should allow for public displays and proper expressions of faith in the public square. It also certainly allows for voluntary expressions of patriotism. But certain judges are ignoring it.

The Constitution established the judiciary as a coequal branch of government, not as the final and supreme authority. The hearings on Judge Roberts' nomination to the Supreme Court underscore the importance of confirming judges who understand this. We must maintain the proper checks and balances which our Founders designed. It is time for Congress and the President to stand up to the courts which have seized so much power to themselves. Ultimately, the survival of our constitutional Republic will depend on it.

CALLING FOR INDEPENDENT COMMISSION REGARDING HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House today is going to vote to create a special congressional committee on preparedness and response to Hurricane Katrina. My question is, why do we need a special committee? That is our job, anyway. We have a lot of committees in the House

that are supposed to be doing that every day all year.

What we need to do is see what happened. Let us have an independent commission to check both the executive branch's response and also the congressional branch. We need somebody to come from the outside and check both our test and our homework. Let us not have a sham or a whitewash.

SCHOOLYARD FIGHT OVER THE LADY NAMED KATRINA

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a fight broke out in one of the public high schools in Houston, Texas, this week between numerous recent evacuees from Louisiana and students from the Texas high school. Several were arrested. The tension and energy between the "displaced" and the "hometowners" should be channeled in a productive way. As a former judge in Houston, I believe these culprits should be held accountable for their attitudes and their attitudes need to be adjusted.

At the end of class on Friday, the Louisiana kids should be put back on a yellow school bus and sent back to New Orleans to spend the weekend cleaning up their hometown from the mess left by Katrina. The Texas students should spend the weekend at the Astrodome helping the thousands of volunteers in the relief effort. Then when both sides arrive back at school on Monday morning, they should have a different attitude about cooperation.

The schoolyard fight is similar to those here in the Capitol who gripe, complain, moan and groan and put blame on others for the Katrina disaster, but do nothing personally to help. Cease the fighting words and rhetoric and get on with the rebuilding, refurbishing, and renewal of our Nation.

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NEED TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO EXAMINE HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will have under consideration legislation to create a select bipartisan committee to investigate the preparation and response to Hurricane Katrina. This would be a good commission if, in fact, it was bipartisan. But it is not bipartisan in the sense that both parties do not have equal access to the information or subpoena power or equal numbers on the committee to do the investigation.

Therefore, what we really need is a 9/11-type commission. The public overwhelmingly supports a 9/11 commission, an independent commission to

look at what the failures were that led to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, an independent commission that can look at the administration, can look at the Congress of the United States, because both bodies, both entities, made decisions.

The Republican leadership in the administration, the Republican leadership in the Congress made decisions about resources, about talent, about personnel, about the deployments and all of the rest of this.

The idea now that they can come and investigate themselves, and they alone can hold the subpoena power, is a horrible mistake on behalf of the victims of Katrina and the American people. It should be rejected, and we should have a 9/11-type commission.

RECOGNIZING THE PHILANTHROPIST MRS. PAT SEAMANS WALKER

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Arkansas' most generous philanthropists, Mrs. Pat Seamans Walker.

Next week, Pat will be presented with the prestigious Arkansas Children's Award. There is good reason Pat is receiving this honor. Since Pat and her late husband Willard founded the Willard and Pat Walker Foundation in 1986, she has made it her goal to improve the quality of life in communities across Arkansas.

It is impossible to list all of the donations that the Walkers have made over the years in the short amount of time allotted to me. I would, however, like to give my colleagues a brief description of Pat's generosity.

Over the years, her foundation has given millions to educational institutions in Arkansas, millions to health care research and community health care centers in Arkansas, and hundreds of thousands of dollars to community libraries in the Third District of Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, the examples that I have given are just a few of Pat Seamans Walker's gifts to Arkansas. Arkansas is extremely appreciative of her generosity. She certainly deserves this prestigious award, and I congratulate her on this honor.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT OF HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) laid before the House the following communication from Angelle Kwemo, Legislative Assistant of the Honorable WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 12, 2005.

Hon. J. HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ANGELLE KWEMO,
Legislative Assistant.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 889, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2005

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 440 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 440

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 889) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2006, to make technical corrections to various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by title rather than by section. Each title shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII and except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment so printed may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Thursday, September 15, 2005, for the Speaker to entertain a motion that the House suspend the rules relating to the bill H.R. 3768.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 440 is a modified open rule that provides for full consideration of H.R. 889, the Coast Guard and Maritime Security Act of 2005.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and makes in order only those amendments that are preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD or are pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate.

H.R. 889 was reported by voice vote from the Committee on Transportation on May 17, 2005. The bill provides for the reauthorization of Coast Guard activities for the coming fiscal year.

H.R. 889 has the strong bipartisan support from members of the Transportation Committee, and I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) for again bringing legislation to the floor that has support from both sides of the aisle.

The Coast Guard is critical to our defense against terrorism and our response to natural disasters. Along the gulf coast, the Coast Guard rescued thousands of people from flooded areas in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Many of these people were saved in daring rescue attempts from rooftops or trees.

We all mourn the loss of life caused by Hurricane Katrina, and we do not yet know what the final death toll will be. It is clear, however, that the loss of life would have been much greater without the heroic efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard.

The U.S. Coast Guard has the primary responsibility of securing ports from our oceans to inland rivers and has the job of providing maritime security across the country. Given the added responsibility of the Coast Guard in the post-September-11 world, we must ensure that the agency has the adequate personnel to maintain their readiness for both homeland security and for response to natural disasters.

It is clear that the Coast Guard faces many challenges in the homeland security and rescue missions. The GAO noted earlier this year that some stations need additional boats or staff to meet Coast Guard readiness standards and goals.