

workers who are learning new skills and are exercising the many skills they already know in order to give back to society.

I am a firm believer that every single person at any age has certain gifts and talents from God. I am pleased our older workers are committed to sharing their talents with others. It is my hope that employers around the country will continue to recognize the many benefits of hiring older workers and expand job opportunities for these fine citizens.

THE NEED FOR AN EXIT STRATEGY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, 3 years ago we heard the drums of war beating in this House Chamber, and Congress voted to take this Nation to war against Iraq.

We later learned that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction, was not trying to get uranium from Niger, had no intention nor capability of attacking the United States. Yet we went to war and war against Iraq remains.

We went to war without any thought of how we would get out of that war. We went to war with a big buildup; but when it came to talking about an exit from Iraq, there was very little or no discussion except for the one thing, Democrats and Republicans alike to come together, in support of House Joint Resolution 55, a resolution that requires the administration to produce, by the end of the year, an exit strategy and to begin the execution of that strategy by October 1 of 2006.

We owe it to those who serve. We owe it to the troops who gave their lives. We owe it to their parents and to their families, to have an exit strategy so that we can let the world community take the burden of the years ahead in Iraq.

CONGRATULATING NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Norfolk public schools for winning the Broad Prize for Urban Education. Eighty-two school districts participated. Five finalists were selected. Yesterday the winner was announced: Norfolk public schools.

The criterion for this award is significantly improving student achievement and reducing the performance gap. Congratulations to Norfolk, Virginia, for their hard work, their dedication and their creativity, and a heartfelt thanks to the Broad Foundation for their vision and their commitment to America's children.

These models and programs will be used across America to improve the quality of education for all children.

DO THE KATRINA RECOVERY RIGHT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, we are united not just in our compassion for the victims of Katrina, but a sincere interest in doing recovery right.

Republicans and Democrats, both ends of the political spectrum, can agree that we do not want some Stalinist plan imposed on a manufactured community doomed to fail.

We need the courage to be partners respectfully, the wisdom to define the role carefully, the stamina to follow through thoroughly, and the integrity to avoid partisanship. We must meet the immediate needs of the refugees affected; but we must restore communities that are stronger, safer, and more sustainable.

We must involve all Americans with the skills and concerns starting with locals, wherever they may be. We must make this a model for how to do it right because it is not just about rescuing a damaged region; it is about how to make the Federal Government more effective.

KATRINA ABUSE

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, as the skies have cleared in the aftermath of Katrina, and the howling winds and rain of Rita develop in the gulf and head for Texas, we have learned that giving away American money in the form of emergency debit cards should be reevaluated.

There are reports in Houston of evacuees using their taxpayer debit cards to buy expensive jewelry, \$800 Louis Vuitton purses. \$2,000 cards are exchanged on the black market for cash in order to buy drugs, alcohol, and as they say, street entertainment.

There are reports of individuals using multiple stolen identifications to get numerous cards. At the Astrodome there are reports of dice games with the pot being debit cards.

Madam Speaker, we are also hearing the topless clubs are doing a booming business thanks to the evacuees. A local bartender has reported that the debit cards are used at his topless club to gain admission and purchase lap dances. Maybe these are emergency lap dances for the displaced and distressed evacuees.

Madam Speaker, when American money is given away in the name of compassion without adequate control, we see the above abuse. Those who take advantage of this disaster should be held accountable.

As the saying goes, Madam Speaker, no good deed goes unpunished. This ought not to be.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL OF EL PASO, TEXAS

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

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today in recognition of the 80th anniversary of Cathedral High School located in my district in El Paso, Texas.

Since Cathedral High School opened its doors with a faculty of four LaSallian brothers in 1925, it has woven itself into the fabric of the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez community.

The school has educated and taught the histories of two cultures and two nations to the sons of both. Over the years, Cathedral has produced thousands of college-bound graduates, many of whom have become great civic leaders and accomplished professionals. Among these men we count Ambassador Raymond Telles.

Ambassador Telles' Cathedral education prepared him to become the first Hispanic mayor of El Paso and to be appointed ambassador to Costa Rica, among many distinguished posts which he held.

He is an inspiration to generations of Cathedral graduates, to El Pasoans, and to Hispanics across the United States. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 80th anniversary of Cathedral High School and wishing them continued success and excellence.

IN TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the firefighters, police officers, and other first responders who have answered the call of duty and traveled from around the country to the gulf coast in order to help their fellow citizens and communities who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Many in this country sometimes forget that men and women put their lives on the line every day seeking not headlines or glory, but the simple satisfaction of helping and saving their fellow citizens. Their brave deeds, good work, and tremendous dedication deserve and demand the grateful respect and recognition of all.

And now more than ever, in recent days we have literally seen thousands of firefighters, police officers, EMS workers, and others pour into New Orleans and other devastated gulf coast areas to bolster relief efforts and save hundreds, if not thousands, of lives.

I am particularly proud to recognize those who have volunteered from around Ohio's 18th District as well as a number of our own United States Capitol Hill police officers who are currently on their way to the gulf coast.

These men and women are a shining example of everything that is good about our country today. The least we can do is to honor them and recognize them on the floor.

KATRINA AND RELIEF FOR LATINOS

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I am discouraged to learn that FEMA's approach towards Latinos seeking hurricane relief assistance is woefully inadequate.

Yesterday the Los Angeles Times highlighted the neighborhood in Kenner, Louisiana, that has failed to receive emergency shelter assistance from FEMA. The article quoted a FEMA spokesperson who stated, "Part of the problem for the Hispanic community is that if you are illegal, you cannot apply for housing."

It is unfortunate, however, that FEMA made such an ignorant and false assumption. About 1,500 to 1,800 people living in the HUD subsidized apartments are legal residents. Legal. And they qualify for assistance according to city officials.

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Latinos contribute significantly to the social and economic fabric of the gulf coast, working in casinos, in the poultry industry, in hotels, and on construction sites. These communities should also be eligible for emergency aid and ensure that their families are safe and healthy. They should not be made victims because of someone's ignorance.

Just as Hurricane Katrina did not discriminate when it swooped along the gulf coast, neither should FEMA make such a gross, negligent, and ignorant assumption about a person's immigration status.

HONORING SIMON WIESENTHAL

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Holocaust survivor and freedom advocate Simon Wiesenthal. An extraordinary man of courage, he believed there can be no freedom without justice.

Dedicating his life to this pursuit, he was responsible for finding and bringing to trial over 1,100 Nazi war criminals. A survivor of several different concentration camps through the course of World War II, he was finally liberated May 5, 1945. Sadly, most of his family had perished in the camps, over 89 persons. However, he cherished their memories and was strengthened with purpose.

In an interview years later he said, "I want to be their mouthpiece. I want to keep their memory alive, to make sure the dead live on in that memory."

Simon Wiesenthal is a legendary example of what a person with a vision and a will can do. They can change the world.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we have begun to attempt to rebuild the gulf coast region, tonight the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation will host and hold a candlelight vigil on the west steps of the United States Capitol at 8 p.m. As we do that, we hope that it will recommit both this government and our Nation to the survival of the survivors and the rebuilding of their region.

Might I also say that I join in offering the immigration relief for hurricane victims' legislation that will be on the floor, which is H.R. 3827, that will provide for benefits for immigrants that may have lost those papers or documents relevant to their pending case, and we should be concerned.

Finally, as Hurricane Rita comes upon us in the gulf coast, in my city of Houston, might I ask for FEMA to be prepared and on the ground. And might I say to Houstonians and Galvestonians and others, follow the instructions, go to the evacuation sites, and make sure that all of the people of that region are safe. Our prayers are with you.

SHARED SACRIFICE

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, much has been said about leadership in the Katrina response. Some elected leaders failed because they were not decisive and did not make tough choices when the times called for them. We should not repeat those mistakes.

True leaders make tough choices and inspire shared sacrifice when times get tough. President Bush outlined an unprecedented Federal commitment to cleaning up the mess left by Hurricane Katrina, and this body will give him a plan that largely reflects what he wants.

The devil, as it is said, is in the details. How do we pay for this? We cannot just throw money into programs and ideas. A successful plan to rebuild the region will be limited in scope, targeted to specific needs, and its cost offset from other areas of the budget.

It is wrong to use this tragedy as an excuse to pile more debt onto future generations. Let us help Katrina's victims but let us also tighten our belts and pay for it today.

REMEMBERING SIMON WIESENTHAL

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I too rise to reflect on the life and contributions of Simon Wiesenthal who passed away 2 days ago at the age of 96.

Simon Wiesenthal is known by many to be the "conscience of the Holocaust," for after the atrocities ended, he spent his entire life researching and locating former Nazis to bring them to justice.

Throughout the course of the Holocaust, Simon Wiesenthal and his wife lost a total of 89 family members. American soldiers liberated him from the Mauthausen concentration camp in 1945. He was barely alive, weighing less than 100 pounds.

As a prisoner in 12 concentration camps, Simon Wiesenthal memorized the names of his perpetrators and later he embarked on his mission to bring them to justice. He created the Jewish Documentation Center to assemble evidence for trial. His most famous cases included the capture of Adolf Eichmann, the man who supervised the implementation of the "Final Solution." Wiesenthal also helped locate the Gestapo officer who arrested Anne Frank. In total, he helped trace some 1,100 Nazis.

In a conversation with a former concentration camp inmate, Wiesenthal explained, when we come to the other world and meet the millions of Jews who died in the camps and they ask us, What have you done, there will be many answers. But I will say, we did not forget you.

Now it is our turn to say to Mr. Wiesenthal, we will not forget you. We will honor his life and his work by continuing to bring perpetrators to justice and continuing to fight intolerance and anti-Semitism wherever it exists.

SINGAPORE SHINES IN AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

(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. Madam Speaker, our Nation has been appreciative of the tremendous outpouring of support from other nations for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

After playing a critical role in the tsunami relief efforts earlier this year, the Republic of Singapore was one of the first countries that understood the devastation in our Nation and immediately reached out to help those left in Katrina's wake.

In the beginning of September, Singapore's Air Force deployed four Chinook helicopters to Fort Polk, Louisiana, to assist in relief operations. As they worked side by side with members of the Texas Army National Guard, Singapore's airmen flew more than 80 sorties to transport over 800 evacuees and security personnel. They also flew more than 540 tons of equipment, humanitarian supplies, and sand to help