

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.

□ 1015

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

fix the breaches in the levees of New Orleans.

Ambassador Chan Heng Chee's leadership and support has been particularly helpful during this time of crisis. As our nations continue to work together, America remains grateful for its strong friendship with Singapore as allies in the war on terrorism.

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

FREEDOM'S PROGRESS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Afghanistan on the elections they just held.

The saying that "freedom is not free" rings true for those who defied the Taliban, defied the warlords, and made history by freely electing their leaders this past Sunday.

During the past 4 years, people have forgotten what the Taliban stood for: public executions at soccer stadiums; banning the Internet, music, television and education; preventing women from going to school or work outside the home. A woman caught wearing finger-nail polish may have had her fingertips chopped off.

This week however, Afghans, 12 million strong, have shown the world that they will not go back to tyranny, they will not take a step back into oppression, and will not buckle when taking on the challenges of democracy.

Madam Speaker, Afghanistan demonstrates the most recent chapter in freedom's march. It is a glorious story whose success should be recognized and applauded.

OPERATION OFFSET

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, today at 11:30 I will join some of my colleagues in a press conference for Operation Offset.

I want to thank the leadership for the opportunity to participate in providing offsets as we look at ways to fund Hurricane Katrina's disaster relief program. I want to thank them for leading the way with the 2006 budget that this body recently passed. And I want to thank them for the opportunity to focus on what I think is the heart and soul of our conference, fiscal stewardship.

As I make my remarks today, my focus is going to be on government overpayments, one of which is the earned income tax credit which is overpaid by \$9 billion annually over a 10-year period. A savings of \$90 billion could be realized here. The GAO, the CBO, and the Inspectors General have numerous ideas and suggestions and

ways that we can rein in government spending. It is time for us to heed our own advice.

PROPER CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, we are starting to hear a lot of talk about where is the proper place for the investigation into the response and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Madam Speaker, I submit that the proper place for that investigation is here in the United States Congress. We have the responsibility, indeed, we have the constitutional obligation to be the ones responsible for this oversight investigation. In fact, my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, maintains a standing subcommittee called the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, a committee that already has subpoena power, a committee that has a history of bipartisanship.

No matter which party was in power, this committee does have a history of bipartisanship, and I think it is the correct committee to investigate the response in the aftermath to the hurricane.

An independent commission, as we have already seen in the last year, can become a side show for partisanship, and yet we still have to convene our own congressional committees in order to write the legislation.

No, the correct path for this Congress to take is to use an already established committee for the investigation of the response and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

THANKING AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's first responders, the men and women who work every day to safeguard our communities. This Nation owes so much to the firemen, the EMTs and other emergency workers who put themselves in harm's way to keep us and our loved ones safe.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, our country is once again reminded of the dedication and bravery of our first responders. Their contributions in the gulf coast were felt by every person rescued from a rooftop, by every person receiving medical care, and every person evacuated from a flooded city.

These past few weeks, we have been able to watch the valor of our first responders on TV and we have read about it in the newspapers, but we should remember that these men and women are

protecting our community every single day, not just when a disaster strikes. And while it may not be televised every day, their heroism is certainly valued every day.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking America's first responders.

APPLAUDING GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, we just had the opportunity this morning, some of us, to hear from the Governor of Mississippi, Haley Barbour.

What a refreshing example of leadership Mr. Barbour has offered our country. Unfortunately, as compared to the Governor of his neighboring State, Louisiana, faced with the same disasters, faced with loss of life, faced with billions of dollars in property damage, Mr. Barbour did not take the opportunity to bash Washington, to whine about what the Federal Government did or did not do; but, rather, on a local level, with folks like the mayor of Biloxi and the mayors of all the other towns and the police chiefs and the police forces and the local emergency management agencies, faced up to the disaster, did everything that they could to show folks that yes, this is tough, and unfortunately government is not the answer to everything, but we can work together, we can face up to this thing and we can bring Mississippi back and bring Mississippi back strong.

I applaud Governor Barbour for the leadership he has provided. He gave us a case of one police force where the police station was flooded. The police officers did not cut and run. They did not evacuate. They went to the top floor. The top floor got flooded. They went to the roof of the building. It got flooded. They swam to nearby tree tops. They spent the night on trees. And yet the next morning rather than whine and say, oh, pity me, they came back to work and never evacuated, even though on a personal level all of those police officers from this particular precinct lost all their houses. Their homes were gone and their families had to evacuate for many weeks of separation.

That is the face of some of the great American people that we are seeing, not just in Mississippi but also in Louisiana and Alabama, but I particularly applaud Governor Barbour for his leadership.

RED TAPE HINDERING AID TO EVACUEES

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Madam Speaker, it is amazing to me that American troops can get sick off Halliburton food, yet