

citizens, in addition to all of the hardworking union men and women in America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

CONTINUING FUNDING FOR GULF COAST KATRINA RELIEF RECOVERY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, our Nation's responsibility to the people of the gulf coast has not ended since Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast region 2 years ago. Since then, volunteers, first responders, and officials from across the Nation have boldly confronted the challenges of rebuilding damaged areas by dedicating their time and effort to help restore these vibrant communities. However, the challenges the region continues to face are far from over and it is clear that this administration has fallen dramatically short of fulfilling the promises made to the people of the gulf coast.

Two years ago, despite multiple warnings of Katrina's severity and the approaching devastation that would result if residents of the gulf coast were not evacuated, the ill-prepared Bush administration failed to offer the necessary support to the hundreds of thousands of people in the storm's path. Vulnerable populations without the economic means or available transportation to evacuate were left with no choice but to weather the storm in their homes or shelters. After the storm ended, at least 1,800 people lost their lives in five States; more than 1 million people were displaced from their homes; hundreds of thousands of homes, schools, and businesses were destroyed; and countless communities and habitats were uprooted.

Despite the outpouring of congressional support for reconstruction and disaster assistance, the administration has poorly managed the disbursement of funds and failed to ensure that home and business owners receive the aid they need. Of the \$94.8 billion that Congress appropriated in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, almost half has been spent by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on debris removal and temporary housing assistance. Only \$3.4 billion has been spent on permanent infrastructure repairs, and FEMA's consistent underestimation of the necessary costs associated with permanent rebuilding has resulted in billions of dollars of aid being tied up after costs exceed FEMA's initial estimates. As a result of the inadequate management and inefficient use of funds, thousands of residents have not returned to their homes. According to the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, 107,000 gulf residents displaced by Katrina are still in FEMA-provided temporary housing.

The administration could have chosen to overcome its original failure with a concerted commitment to rebuild the gulf coast and ensure that the victims of this disaster receive the assistance they need. Instead, over the last 2 years, they have chosen to ignore these problems and the needs of the gulf coast residents. The administration's continued indiffer-

ence to the devastation caused by Katrina has prevented these residents from rebuilding to their communities and tackling the lingering poverty in the region. This administration's failures have been compounded with time, continuing to postpone the complete restoration of the gulf coast.

Madam Speaker, today, we must recommit ourselves, at all levels of government, to rebuild the gulf coast in a responsible and comprehensive way. As we honor those who lost their lives during Hurricane Katrina, we cannot allow this important work to be pushed to side any longer.

HONORING GEORGE BURROWS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Burrows, Sr. whose hard work and determination have resulted in the revitalization of the Sistrunk Boulevard corridor in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This once-blighted neighborhood is now the pride of Ft. Lauderdale's African-American community.

Born in 1926, George Burrows grew up in the segregated Jim Crow south. He was one of 14 children raised by his Bahamian immigrant parents. After serving in the Marines during World War II, George returned to Ft. Lauderdale. Using the G.I. Bill, he attended Bethune-Cookman College where, after sampling several vocational courses, he decided to study electronics. In 1948, he earned his Associate of Arts degree in electronics, and soon after received his state certification as a licensed master electrician.

Madam Speaker, with only electrical wire, government-issued tools, and a used bicycle with front and rear baskets, George Burrows embarked on a career that has spanned more than five decades. He fought bravely against a segregated system that limited his services to Colored Town and went on to great success in the electrical business. The day before his alma mater Dillard High School was to play an important football game, its field still had no lights. George Burrows came to the rescue, installing lights on the field and saving the day.

One of his proudest accomplishments is his longtime involvement with the Black Chamber of Commerce, formerly the Negro Chamber of Commerce. George's work with the Chamber led to minority businesses obtaining contracts with the Hollywood-Ft. Lauderdale International Airport and Port Everglades. George and his devoted wife of more than 50 years, Agnes, have raised four children, all of whom are graduates of historically black colleges. One admirer of his business, Burrows Electric, recently called him "number one in the business" and "a consummate professional."

Madam Speaker, even Ft. Lauderdale City Commissioner Carlton Moore, who grew up in the Sistrunk Boulevard district, lauded George Burrows' achievement as a role model in the community. Commissioner Moore has noted that George "created a business that provided business opportunities to those who were locked out by the system." George Burrows' advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is to "get an

education." With an education, he says, "one can do anything they want in the field they choose." George Burrows is living proof of that. We all owe this great man an enormous debt of gratitude for what he has done to make his neighborhood, his city, and our world a better place. He is truly someone of whom we can all be very proud.

CONGRATULATING MS. KELSEY HOWE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kelsey Howe of Highlands Ranch, CO, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. Her outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young woman.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Ms. Howe to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Howe and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

OWEN LOVEJOY PRINCETON POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2825, designating the post office at 326 South Main Street in Princeton, IL as the Owen Lovejoy Princeton Post Office Building.

Owen Lovejoy, born in Albion, ME, and known for his passionate public service, fought for years for the abolition of slavery. At the root of this passion was the memory of his brother Elijah, Presbyterian minister and editor of an abolitionist press. Elijah was murdered by a mob angered by his anti-slavery writings.

Owen Lovejoy sought an end to slavery, opening his home to runaway slaves, seeking political office in order to push for change, and serving in the Union Army during the American Civil War. An acquaintance of Abraham Lincoln, Lovejoy served as a platform speaker in support of Lincoln in his famous debates with Stephen Douglas.

Our country owes much to individuals like Owen Lovejoy, who, believing in his heart that "all men are created equal," sought an end to

slavery. He never sacrificed what he felt was important, and he dedicated his life selflessly to the greater interests of his country.

It is an honor for me to speak in support of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 2825 honoring a pioneer and a true public servant.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember one of our Nation's darkest days, and one of its finest hours.

None of us will ever forget the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Nor will we ever forget the images of firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders placing themselves in harm's way at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. We will never forget the passengers of United Flight 93, whose heroism may well have saved the United States Capitol. We will never forget the way this Nation joined in prayer and determination in the days which followed. And we will never forget the outpouring of support from our friends throughout the world.

In my home in western North Carolina, young men and women answered the challenge of a nation thrown suddenly into war, as new volunteers signed up for the Armed Forces, and reservists and Guardsmen readied for deployment. In the six years which followed, these brave citizens and their families have sacrificed through multiple deployments and hazardous service in Afghanistan, Iraq, and throughout the world. Since that time, many have been wounded, and six young men from my district have made the ultimate sacrifice. The thoughts and prayers of a grateful nation will always be with them and their families.

In the years since that tragic September day, our Nation has stepped up its vigilance at home and abroad. I am proud of the efforts of our local law enforcement officials to improve training and expertise in our communities to identify potential threats and prevent any future attacks. I would also like to recognize all of those who stand guard in our Nation's intelligence and Federal law enforcement communities, and all Americans serving abroad to reduce the conditions that breed terrorism and to increase hope in distant lands.

This Congress has taken the important steps of implementing the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission and enhancing homeland security efforts, however there is still work to be done. Our ports remain vulnerable, and our borders remain porous. Hurricane Katrina exposed serious problems with our Nation's disaster response mechanisms, and it is unclear how far we have come in fixing those problems. I am committed to working with my colleagues to address these problems and ensure the safety of all Americans.

So today we remember, as we look forward. I join with all my colleagues in today in honoring the memory of those who lost their lives on September 11th, remembering those who have sacrificed defending our Nation since

that day, and praying for those who continue to serve our Nation today.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sorrow to the families and friends of the nearly 3,000 men and women who perished in the terrorist attacks on September 11th 2001. On this day six years ago, our great country was attacked. Yet, the terrorists were not seeking our money or our land. They were out to destroy what we stand for: freedom, democracy, and the American dream. It seems we have come a long way since that dreadful September morning; yet, on a daily basis, we live with the memory of all those who passed away.

Today, Americans remember the courage and bravery we witnessed from the countless civilians, police officers and firefighters who fought the terrorists and ran into the destroyed buildings while many others would have run from them. We will never forget these heroes for giving their lives so they may save the lives of others and the freedom of all.

I join my fellow Members of Congress, not as a Republican or a Democrat, but as a proud American, in expressing our sincere gratitude to those who showed us the true spirit of our Nation.

May God bless them and continue to bless our men and women overseas who fight for the principles we stood for.

CONGRATULATING MR. DAVID JOHNSON

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Mr. David Johnson of Aurora, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956; the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Johnson to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Johnson and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, due to illness I missed the two votes on Monday, September 10, 2007. I would have voted as follows: Passage of H. Res. 257, supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month—"yes"; Passage of H. Res. 643, 9/11 Commemoration—"yes."

SUPPORT FOR ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of H. Res. 106, the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

It is long past time for the United States to officially recognize the massacre of one and a half million Armenians early in the 20th century for what it undeniably was: genocide.

Year, after year, after year, I've been proud to cosponsor the Armenian Genocide resolution. Last year, over 150 House members co-sponsored this important legislation to properly recognize the Armenian Genocide. This year, the resolution has already received 226 cosponsorships, a majority of the Members of the House. This impressive number reflects the broad bipartisan support for an official recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Countries all around the world have adopted similar resolutions to ensure that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people are properly recognized as acts of Genocide. Canada, France, Switzerland, Greece, and Poland all have passed resolutions affirming the recognition of the Genocide. Properly recognizing the Armenian Genocide here in America is essential to ensure that all past genocides are never forgotten and all future atrocities are never permitted.

The writer Milan Kundera once wrote that "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."

There are those that would deny the Armenian Genocide, just as there are those that deny the reality of the Nazi Holocaust. In commemorating the Armenian Genocide as we will do with this Resolution, we collectively engage in that struggle of memory against forgetting. The dangers of forgetting are real—as Adolf Hitler plotted the Holocaust, he was emboldened by the failure of the international community to note the first genocide of the 20th century, writing in 1939 "Who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?" But this resolution is not just intended as a remembrance of a dark past, but as a way of animating future policies with a commitment to prevent such things from ever happening again, as well as a step towards building a better future for the Armenian people and for all people.

I commend Representative SCHIFF for introducing this critical resolution, and again commit myself to work for its timely adoption.