

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE INDIVIDUALS KILLED DURING UNUSUAL STORMS AND FLOODS IN GEORGIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 286.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 286) expressing condolences to the families of the individuals killed during unusual storms and floods in the State of Georgia between September 18 and September 21, 2009, and expressing gratitude to all of the emergency personnel who continue to work with unyielding determination to meet the needs of Georgia's residents.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I come to the floor with a heavy heart to express condolences to those in my home State of Georgia as well as others across the southern part of our country who have been affected by the recent devastating floods.

It is hard to imagine that 1 year ago we in Georgia were in the fourth year of extensive drought. Yet today across the metro Atlanta area and throughout north Georgia, we have gone from a water crisis in the last couple of years to rising waters that have transformed neighborhoods into rivers, ballfields into lakes, and basements into dank pools. Rafts and kayaks have taken the place of cars in streets. In many areas, the only dry places are rooftops and treetops.

For 4 days and 4 nights, beginning September 18, water poured from the sky in torrents, and rose from rivers, creeks, and the saturated ground to claim lives and livelihoods, worldly possessions, and treasured memories in flooded basements, attics, driveways, and fields.

The Chattooga and Chattahoochee Rivers and Chickamauga Creek, swollen by days of rain, topped their banks, with deadly results. The Chattahoochee crested at 30 feet, some 15 feet above flood stage.

Nearly 1,000 families have lost their homes to flooding they never expected to see in their lifetimes. Others found their businesses submerged. Because most are not in floodplains, they do not have flood insurance. Many have lost everything they own during already tough economic times.

In addition to homes and businesses, the rising waters destroyed roadways, swept away bridges, tainted drinking water, and damaged sewer systems. It will take months, if not years, to repair the damage.

Even more heart-wrenching is the fact that nine Georgians and one resident of Alabama, just across the State line, have perished in the rushing waters.

When all was said and done, more than 20 inches of rain fell on Georgia, breaking a 130-year-old record at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Inter-

national Airport. More than 30,000 people were without power in the metro Atlanta area. The Red Cross sheltered hundreds rendered homeless by the floods.

However, the worst situations often bring out the best in people. Local first responders and emergency personnel worked tirelessly to protect lives and property and to rescue those trapped by the waters. Their bravery and sacrifice is exemplary.

Also, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency worked around the clock to facilitate requests for assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency worked closely with the State to anticipate and respond to emergency needs, and countless volunteers gave time and energy to ensure that evacuees were sheltered, clothed, fed, and comforted. They all have Georgians' and my personal deepest, most heartfelt gratitude.

I would like to express my sympathy to the families of those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. To that end, Senator ISAKSON and I have submitted this resolution, S. Res. 286, expressing condolences to those affected and appreciation to emergency responders and others who helped them. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution tonight.

On September 21, Gov. Sonny Perdue declared a state of emergency in 17 counties. I understand President Obama called Governor Perdue Tuesday night to discuss the needs of Georgians and assured the Governor that his request for Federal aid would receive prompt attention. To that end, today we received notification that 4 of the 17 affected counties have been declared disaster areas by President Obama, and I am certain the others, when the processing is completed, will likewise be declared disaster areas.

Tomorrow, Vice President BIDEN will accompany Senator ISAKSON and myself to Georgia to take a firsthand look at what is going on.

Mr. President, we are literally underwater. Georgia and other parts of the Southeast need the assistance of the Federal Government in this case, as well as the State government. To that end, we are seeing the response in a very appropriate way.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 286) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 286

Whereas beginning on September 18, 2009, the State of Georgia was hit by days of unusually strong storms that resulted in downpours and flooding;

Whereas numerous Georgia rivers and creeks, including the Chattooga and Chat-

tahoochee Rivers and the Chickamauga Creek, swollen by days of rain, overtopped their banks, creating a dangerous and deadly situation for nearby residents;

Whereas the storms and floods took human lives;

Whereas the floodwater destroyed homes, flooded roadways, including major highways, compromised drinking water, severely damaged plumbing systems, and caused significant damage to homes and businesses;

Whereas on September 21, 2009, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue declared a state of emergency in 17 counties, including Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Crawford, DeKalb, Douglas, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton, Paulding, Rockdale, Stephens, and Walker Counties;

Whereas the National Weather Service estimated that between 15 and 22 inches of rain fell in the metropolitan Atlanta counties of Gwinnett, Douglas, and Paulding between September 18 and September 21, 2009;

Whereas the rains broke a 130-year-old record at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport;

Whereas hundreds of Georgians were evacuated from their homes, and more than 300 people sought refuge in shelters;

Whereas Governor Perdue estimated that more than 1,000 residences were seriously flooded;

Whereas the weather closed schools in several counties;

Whereas as many as tens of thousands of people were without power in metropolitan Atlanta;

Whereas search and rescue operations functioned in several counties where the water continued to rise;

Whereas the Georgia Emergency Management Agency coordinated with local emergency personnel and worked tirelessly to protect human lives and rescue those threatened by the floods;

Whereas the Georgia Emergency Management Agency facilitated requests for assistance from people and first responders all across the State of Georgia;

Whereas the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and other first responders acted valiantly in life-safety response operations, including delivering sandbags and rescuing people trapped in their cars and homes from the floodwater;

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency activated its national and regional response coordination centers and worked closely with the State of Georgia to monitor the response efforts and identify and respond to any immediate emergency needs for the people and communities of the State that were impacted by the devastating floods; and

Whereas volunteers gave their time to help ensure that evacuees were sheltered, clothed, fed, and comforted through this traumatic event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) offers its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the flooding in the State of Georgia;

(2) expresses its condolences to the families who lost their homes and other property in the floods;

(3) expresses gratitude and appreciation to the people of the State of Georgia and the surrounding States, who worked to protect people from the rising floodwaters;

(4) expresses its support as the Federal Emergency Management Agency responds to the needs of the people and communities affected by the flooding; and

(5) honors the emergency responders, within and beyond metropolitan Atlanta and the State of Georgia, for their bravery and sacrifice during this tragedy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JONATHAN B. JARVIS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 406, the nomination of Jonathan B. Jarvis to be Director of the National Park Service; that immediately after reporting the nomination, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan B. Jarvis, of California, to be Director of the National Park Service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jonathan B. Jarvis, of California, to be Director of the National Park Service?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged of PN704 and that the Senate then proceed to the nomination; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate return to legislative session, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Peggy E. Gustafson, of Illinois, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, earlier today—actually, at 1:43 p.m. today—Senator TOM UDALL, the Senator from New Mexico, joined the 100-hour presiding club of the 111th Congress. He is

the third member of the freshman class to achieve this goal. These are individuals who preside over the Senate for 100 hours.

We have a tradition that those Senators who devote so much time to presiding in the Senate are given what we call a golden gavel. It is a very nice presentation, very nice keepsake, and we will make that presentation at our next caucus. I appreciate very much the work of TOM UDALL, devoting his time to making sure the proceedings on the floor are in keeping with the rules of the Senate, and we welcome him to this most prestigious club—a member of the golden gavel society.

I believe the Presiding Officer is a member of the golden gavel society.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask the Presiding Officer, were you the first to get it? In your capacity as a Senator from the State of Alaska, what is the answer?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Alaska, the answer is yes.

Mr. REID. It was a close battle, but you won.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m., Friday, September 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 3326, the Defense appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. As I announced earlier tonight, Mr. President, there will be no rollcall votes during Friday's session of the Senate. On Monday, which is Yom Kippur, the most significant and highest Holy Day of those of the Jewish faith, we will not be in session. Therefore, the next vote will occur around 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 29.

As a reminder to all Senators, Paul Kirk will be sworn in as the new Senator from the State of Massachusetts, replacing Senator Kennedy. That will be at 3:30 tomorrow afternoon.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:12 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 25, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FREDERICK D. BARTON, OF MAINE, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

BILL DELAHUNT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

ELAINE SCHUSTER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

MARY BURGE WARLICK, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA.

WELLINGTON E. WEBB, OF COLORADO, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

JIDE J. ZEITLIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

JIDE J. ZEITLIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ISLAM A. SIDDIQUI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE RICHARD T. CROWDER.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION INTO AND WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM DELL, OF NEW JERSEY
STEPHEN DONALD MULL, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID DUANE PEARCE, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL E. RANNEBERGER, OF VIRGINIA
MARCIE BERMAN RIES, OF VIRGINIA

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER COUNSELOR:

GINA ABERCROMBIE-WINSTANLEY, OF OHIO
LUISE E. ARREAGA-RODAS, OF VIRGINIA
ERGIBE A. BOYD, OF FLORIDA
SAMUEL VINCENT BROCK, OF FLORIDA
DOLORES MARIE BROWN, OF VIRGINIA
SUE KATHERINE BROWN, OF VIRGINIA
LEE A. BRUDVIG, OF CALIFORNIA
DAVID RAYMON BURNETT, OF WASHINGTON
PHILLIP CARTER III, OF VIRGINIA
LINDA CAROL CHEATHAM, OF TEXAS
MURA CONNELLY, OF NEW JERSEY
J. THOMAS DOUGHERTY, OF WYOMING
GORDON K. DUQUOIN, OF ILLINOIS
PHILIP HUGHES EGGER, OF TENNESSEE
JAMES F. ENTWISTLE, OF VIRGINIA
KAARA NICOLE ETTESVOLD, OF NEW YORK
KENNETH J. FAIRFAX, OF CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL GFOLLER, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT GOLDBERG, OF MARYLAND
ALAN ERIC GREENFIELD, OF MAINE
DEAN J. HAAS, OF CALIFORNIA
JOHN ASHWOOD HEFFERN, OF VIRGINIA
MARY E. HICKEY, OF CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL J. HURLEY, OF WASHINGTON
AMY JANE HYATT, OF CALIFORNIA
JASON P. HYLAND, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES J. KENNEY, JR., OF FLORIDA
THOMAS M. LEARY, OF FLORIDA
CHRISTOPHER W. MURRAY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JEFFREY R. OLESEN, OF FLORIDA
RICHARD GUSTAVE OLSON, JR., OF NEW MEXICO
ANDREW CHARLES PARKER, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL P. PELLETIER, OF MAINE
TERRI LOUISE ROELL, OF MARYLAND
DONNA J. ROGINSKI, OF TEXAS
CHARLES H. ROSENFARB, OF WASHINGTON
WAYNE STEVEN SALISBURY, OF WASHINGTON
DAVID BRUCE SHEAR, OF NEW YORK
MARC J. SIEVERS, OF VIRGINIA
DOUGLAS A. SILLIMAN, OF TEXAS
DENTRY O. SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
JULLIA REEVES STANLEY, OF NEW YORK
JAMES C. SWAN, OF CALIFORNIA
W. STUART SYMINGTON IV, OF MISSOURI
SAMUEL B. THIELMAN, OF VIRGINIA