

But this was not humanitarian aid workers that assaulted the Israeli comandos, where 10 of them were hurt. It turns out that their goal was, of course, to have an international incident. The reason being, after these ships were stopped and then allowed to proceed into Gaza, the humanitarian aid was denied and refused by Hamas. Obviously, an international incident that had gone bad for Hamas.

Recently, myself and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), along with 128 Members of Congress have tried to make it clear to the White House that the United States should stand with our ally Israel, that we should make it clear to Israel, to America, and the rest of the world that Israel has the absolute right to defend itself in this situation and support the blockade and support their actions of the flotilla. This should be clear to all concerned throughout the world, especially Hamas and Hezbollah.

And that's just the way it is.

DISCLOSE ACT EXEMPTIONS

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

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, there is uncertainty on this floor as I speak as to whether or not we are going to bring up the DISCLOSE Act this day in the Rules Committee or on this floor this week. The reason appears to be that a special exemption has been given to just a select number of groups, starting with the National Rifle Association, but also not including the Gun Owners of America; including the Humane Society, but not including other agricultural groups in America.

In other words, we are saying that free speech is free for some but not all. And as I looked at this exemption that's been given, you have to have over a million members. You have to have members in all 50 States. You have to have existed for more than 10 years. It is obvious we have now gone from too big to fail to too big to file. In other words, if you have got enough juice here, you are not going to be included. But if you do, you are going to be excluded, and you are going to be allowed in this election period to fully use your First Amendment rights. That's not what the Constitution's all about.

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE NORTHWESTERN OHIO TORNADOES

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the men and women and children who lost their lives and were wounded in the tornadoes that ravaged northwestern Ohio on June 5 and 6. And that disaster

prematurely took the lives of six people. We are talking about Wood County, Fulton County, Ottawa County, across Sandusky County, and adjacent counties.

Madison Walters has been tragically orphaned while her family, Mary and Ryan Walters and their 4-year-old son, Hayden, were all killed. We also remember Ted Kranz, Kathy Hammitt, and Bailey Bowman. Over \$100 million of estimated damage occurred. Lake High School was leveled. So many businesses, homes, farms affected.

While this is a story of pain, it is also a story of hope and human goodness, as waves of thousands of volunteers have come to try to help and assist those facing such destruction. I would like to submit two articles for the record that detail examples of this compassion. And it shows to us again the signs of a great Nation that binds together, and neighbor helping neighbor.

I urge the administration, in the strongest manner possible, to declare our region a Federal disaster area so necessary aid can flow to those whose lives have been so dramatically affected in a region already suffering from economic recession.

[From toledoblade.com, June 11, 2010]

HELP, HOPE FROM VOLUNTEERS LIFT SPIRITS IN TORNADO-WRECKED TOWNS; MORE THAN 1,600 PEOPLE TURN OUT TO LEND A HAND

(By Claudia Boyd-Barrett)

Millbury resident Tim Miller has lost his house, and he wants to say thank you.

Not to the tornado which left him and his family homeless last weekend, but to the hundreds of people—most of whom he doesn't know—who have come to help pick up the pieces.

Thursday, on what remained of his back deck and next to a hole in the ground that was once his house, Mr. Miller perched a handwritten sign addressed to the volunteers. It read "Thank You Everyone."

"I have to," Mr. Miller said. "All these people come out and help you out, you've gotta thank them somehow."

With volunteers and emergency crews continuing to pour into Wood, Fulton, and Ottawa counties Thursday, recovery and cleanup efforts were moving full-speed.

In Lake Township, site of some of the worst devastation, Police Chief Mark Hummer said he expected the bulk of the cleanup to be done by Saturday. After that, there will be small debris to pick up and rebuilding efforts will begin, he said.

Volunteers included schoolchildren, adults taking time off work, retirees, nonprofit groups, and businesspeople.

Among them, a dozen employees from the Shelly Co. in Findlay and children from a little league baseball team ferried hundreds of hamburgers, hotdogs, and refreshments to residents and other volunteers in the Lake Township area.

Nine-year-old Ryan Kerr was one of the volunteers. He said he wanted to help "because I feel really bad about all the people losing their homes." And, he added, "it's fun." Recruitment of volunteers has been so successful that the United Way announced it would close two of its volunteer reception centers today. With so much of the general cleanup work done, there is only need for specialized volunteers, the agency said.

"The community's response has been absolutely tremendous," Bill Kitson, United Way of Greater Toledo president and chief execu-

tive officer, said in a statement. "In the past three days, we have deployed more than 1,600 volunteers to help with clean-up efforts. I'm truly at a loss for words."

The closed centers were at Grace United Methodist Church at 601 East Boundary St. in Perrysburg and at the Mainstreet Church at 705 North Main St. in Walbridge.

United Way officials said that if people still wish to volunteer and think their specialized skills can be used in restoration efforts, they should call 2-1-1 and give their personal information for reference.

General volunteers are needed in Ottawa and Fulton counties, however. In Fulton County, volunteers can go to Shiloh Christian Union Church, 2100 County Road 5, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. today while the location will change to the Swancreek Township Hall, 5565 County Road D for the weekend. Ottawa County has a volunteer reception center at Genoa High School.

Bill Walker, the emergency management director for Erie County who has been helping out in Ottawa County, said the cleanup there would likely continue into next week.

"There's still a lot of work to do," he said. "But it's way better than what it was."

Amid the cleanup efforts, emergency officials also worked to ensure the area is prepared for future storms. They tested sirens yesterday across Wood County and one siren in Lake Township failed to sound. The siren, outside the fire station on Ayers Road, was fixed within a few hours.

Police Chief Mark Hummer said the siren had electrical problems and may have been struck by lightning.

It was not known whether any other sirens failed to work during the testing that lasted about three minutes and started at noon.

The Lake Township site where the siren wasn't working is the closest location to an area of Millbury that was among the hardest hit in the township.

Lake Township fire Chief Todd Walters said the siren was tested a week ago and was working when the tornado hit on Saturday night. Other sirens that were activated Thursday in Lake Township were at the Municipal Building in Millbury, Walbridge behind the police department, and on East Broadway in news conference yesterday morning, the township's police and fire chiefs encouraged people to prepare for future storms by having a battery-operated radio, as well as food and water in a safe area of the house, on hand at all times.

According to the National Weather Service, there is a chance of showers and thunderstorms today and through the weekend, but severe weather conditions have not been predicted.

Also yesterday, Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jolene Molitoris toured the storm-ravaged areas and spoke with officials involved in the recovery efforts. She pledged continued help by ODOT crews in clearing roads and making them safe for emergency personnel and the public.

Ms. Molitoris said she was inspired to see the progress made by the various government agencies on the ground and by volunteers.

"Everybody is a team and there's a power in working together," Ms. Molitoris said. "It reminds us of what it means to be Ohioans."

In another sign that things are slowly recovering, the Lake Township Police Department moved to a former Ohio Highway Patrol substation on Lemoyne Road. Emergency dispatchers for the Lake Township Fire Department and EMS will continue to work out of the Northwood police dispatch center, however.

Meanwhile, others were recovering on a more personal level. After losing the house they had moved into just three weeks ago to

the tornado, Melody Kisseberth and her fiancée, Steve Avers, said they are gradually coming to terms with their ordeal.

"I was devastated for days, but now I'm trying to see the bright side," Ms. Kisseberth said, as she picked up the debris along with dozens of volunteers. "I realized we need to be thankful because there's a lot of people worse off than us."

[From toledoblade.com, June 15, 2010]

RELATIVES PULL TOGETHER FOR GIRL
ORPHANED AFTER TORNADO

(By the Blade staff)

The extended family of a 7-year-old left orphaned and homeless by the June 5 tornadoes said Monday they are "pulling together" to protect the little girl.

Madison Walters' mother, Mary Walters, 36, and her 4-year-old brother, Hayden, were killed shortly after a powerful tornado struck the family home in Millbury, Ohio, ripping off the second story.

Her father, Ryan Walters, 37, who was critically injured, died Sunday at Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo.

Madison was released Sunday from the same hospital after days of treatment for broken bones. Her aunt, Amy Sigler, said the child is being cared for by family members.

"She is doing well and is surrounded by her loving family," Mrs. Sigler said.

Barbara Walters, Mr. Walters' mother, said she was not surprised at her son's passing, but the family had hoped for a better outcome. She said the couple left a will "with specific instructions" for Madison.

The family declined to give specifics about which family members she will live with, citing a desire for privacy.

Mr. Walters will be buried Friday with his wife and son in Lake Township cemetery, Barbara Walters said.

Mrs. Sigler described her brother-in-law, a long-distance runner, as an "exemplary" father and husband who dedicated many volunteer hours to help manage the computer systems at Mainstreet Church in Walbridge.

She said faith in God is helping the family cope with their grief.

"God's grace is amazing," she said. "We know we're going to see him again."

Mr. and Mrs. Walters apparently were asleep in an upstairs bedroom of their Main Street house when the tornado struck. Their children were asleep in the same part of the house, family members said.

The house appears to have been in the direct path of at least one tornado, and was flattened to the foundation.

Mrs. Sigler, who lives in nearby Northwood, said she tried to call her sister to warn her about the approaching storm. She had watched news reports of violent thunderstorms moving across northwest Ohio, and knew the family was asleep. "The phone just rang and rang," she said the day after the storm hit. "I knew as soon as it hit and she didn't call that something was wrong."

The storm was one of northwest Ohio's worst.

The others killed include Ted Kranz, 46, who died after part of his Case Road home fell on him after he left his basement to check on a generator; Wauseon resident Kathy Hammitt, 56, who was en route for home along State Rt. 795 after visiting her husband at a nearby hospital, and Bailey Bowman, a 20-year-old mother of a 2-year-old boy, who was killed as she tried to seek shelter at the Lake Township police building.

DEAL WITH THE GULF

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, last night I watched the President on television, and I was really disappointed because, instead of really addressing the problem of the gulf spill, he was once again talking about a government move to take over part of our country.

We have seen the government move to take over or control the auto industry, the financial industry. We have seen the government or the administration force through the health care bill which the vast majority of Americans don't want. And last night, instead of really focusing on dealing with the problem in the gulf that's going to cost maybe 150,000 jobs and make us more dependent on foreign oil, what the President did, he started talking about the cap-and-trade bill, which will raise taxes on energy production, and every family in America will suffer to the tune of about \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year.

This is a time, Mr. President, if I were talking to him, I would say to deal with the problem in the gulf instead of talking about taking over more of the private sector and raising our taxes.

COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT'S OVAL OFFICE ADDRESS

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

Mr. RANGEL. I really didn't intend to talk, but I just wonder whether my colleague was listening to the same President, a President who I thought was responding to all Americans when he said that the government has a responsibility to make certain that the private sector upholds their commitment to people, to make certain that they do what I would hope that you would want.

We have to get away from this whole idea that government's bad. Ask anybody that has Medicaid and Medicare. And this President was an exciting, fresh air for all Americans to know that we will never forget those people in Louisiana.

The whole idea of cleaning the atmosphere and making this planet a better place to live, maybe that's repugnant to your way of thinking, but believe me, it's not for Democrats. It's for Democrats, Republicans, and for the civilized world to understand that we are prepared to make this a better planet than the one in which people have destroyed it.

So I just hope that we check and see who you were listening to last night, because I really thought it was exciting, invigorating, and gave us a lot of comfort that the President really cared.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE NEW NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY: JUST WORDS?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the National Security Strategy released by the White House late last month has plenty to recommend. This administration, on paper and in its rhetoric and proclamations, clearly has a broader view, beyond the use of military force, of how to keep Americans safe.

The strategy puts a premium on diplomacy and multilateral cooperation as key tools of advancing our security interests. It discusses clean energy and a reduced dependence on foreign oil. It recognizes the threat, within a national security context, of global climate change. It expresses a commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and pledges support for fledgling democracies. It includes, under the rubric of national security, human rights, global health, and development aid. Madam Speaker, it even emphasizes the important national security implications of investing in education and human capital right here at home.

Frankly, it sounds a lot like the smart security platform that I have been advocating for the last several years. I'm glad the folks at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue are getting there, also.

And yet, Madam Speaker, I can't reconcile all of those promising ideas with the ongoing prosecution of two wars, which are bankrupting our country morally and fiscally, without reducing terrorism threats or contributing to our national security.

The situation on the ground in Afghanistan remains very tenuous. While Americans, other NATO forces, and civilians continue to shed blood, insurgents and militants continue to thrive. As we prepare to move in on the Taliban's home base of Kandahar, all evidence indicates that we weren't successful at the more modest task of driving them out of Marja this very winter. Besides, according to General McChrystal, the Kandahar offensive isn't even ready to start on time.

At the same moment, we have an unreliable partner in President Karzai, a partner who has now dismissed two of his top aides who had the best working relationship with the United States. And General Petraeus is on Capitol Hill this week to tell the Armed Services Committees that the last 15 to 18 months have been about installing the "inputs" in Afghanistan, and that now, finally, we are ready to reap some "outputs."

Well, with all due respect, Madam Speaker, and respect to the General, we are all pleased that he is fine after briefly passing out in the Senate hearing room earlier this week, but in all due respect, I think the American people feel as though they have been providing inputs for more than 8½ years now. It's particularly difficult to accept this explanation when we've seen