

Mr. CALVERT. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. The EPA was there to work with the city when the fire department found out what a danger it was. When the county wasn't able to handle such an extreme toxic cleanup, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was able to call on EPA Region 5. They knew the people. They had worked together on other projects, and they gave comfort and aid to homeowners that this toxic waste site that people didn't even know existed from as close as you and I are to each other, sir, was in their backyard.

The EPA does a lot of work. We are asking them to do it on a shorter budget. This would make it impossible for them to do their work at all.

Madam Chair, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his support of the EPA, although sometimes we disagree at what level.

Mr. CALVERT. It is interesting that we are having a disagreement on how much we should cut the EPA. It is not the argument that we are cutting the EPA. Obviously, that is a fact. We have cut the EPA with this upcoming budget by 37 percent over the last few years.

I know that the Administrator is doing a lot to create efficiencies with the EPA and to operate that absolutely more effectively for our health and for the benefit of the United States.

Madam Chair, with that, I believe this amendment just simply goes too far. I oppose this amendment and would urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment Nos. 78 and 80 will not be offered.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMUCKER) having assumed the chair, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354), making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF THE FOOD INSECURITY NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the success of the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program, otherwise known as FINI, in providing low-income Americans the opportunity to put healthier food on the table for their families.

As a joint program between the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, FINI provides funding to improve the nutrition in SNAP households.

Last month, Secretary Perdue announced nearly \$17 million in grants to help SNAP participants purchase healthier food options for their families. This funding would not have been possible without FINI, which was authorized by the 2014 farm bill.

As chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee, creating opportunity for low-income families to afford nutritious food options is incredibly important to me, and we want to ensure the program is viable for generations. Last year alone, SNAP helped at least 44 million families put nutritious food on their tables. That allowed 19 million children to lead healthier lifestyles.

The FINI program is successful, and we see the success through the good it does for the health of American families.

NEIL NORMAN RECEIVES NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AWARD

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent, Neil Norman of Richland, Washington, for receiving the National Society of Professional Engineers Award in honor of his extraordinary contributions to the engineering profession.

Mr. Norman is one of only 65 engineers to receive this award since 1949, and his substantial career demonstrates that he has earned this achievement. He has worked on several state-of-the-art projects since he began his work in 1952, including the plant design and construction for the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository. In central Washington, he designed the Fast Flux Test Facility, which is the Hanford nuclear site's former research reactor.

Neil has received several local, State, and national awards over the years. In retirement, he continues to serve his community. He gives lectures to engineering students in colleges across the State of Washington to promote profes-

sionalism, ethics, public health, and safety. His outstanding career is one to be admired.

Please join me in congratulating Neil Norman for his contributions to the engineering profession and to our community.

AMERICANS HELPING AMERICANS IN TIME OF DISASTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time. I want to talk about what has been occurring in southeast Texas for the last several weeks.

I represent part of the Houston area, north Houston and into other areas of Harris County. Houston is one of many cities in Harris County, Texas. Of course I am going to talk about Hurricane Harvey.

On August 26, Texans across the State braced themselves for Hurricane Harvey. It was a quick hurricane in that it developed very quickly in the Gulf of Mexico, and it hit southeast Texas near Corpus Christi and Rockport, and it did considerable damage in Rockport. I understand from Congressman FARENTHOLD, who represents the area, that the entire small town was just obliterated by Hurricane Harvey. That is right on the coast of Texas.

Hurricane Harvey made its way up the coast toward Houston, riding the coast and the Gulf of Mexico. When it got to Houston, Texas, it slowed down to some extent, and for 5 days it rained. It rained all day and all night, and the floodwaters rose in the Houston, Harris County area.

All told, we got about 50 inches of rain in those 5 days. Seventy percent of Harris County had floodwaters at the highest time that the flood occurred—70 percent of the Houston, Harris County area.

□ 1200

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in Houston, I remember the hurricanes that came through Houston when I was a kid. Hurricane Carla in 1961—or 1962—we thought that was the biggest thing that ever happened to Houston. But there were others since then.

More recently, we had Tropical Storms Allison and Alicia; and then the Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Humberto, Gustav, Ike. And then we had three holiday floodings in the Houston area on Memorial Day, Labor Day, and tax day—IRS day; and now Hurricane Harvey more recently.

Hurricane Harvey, all of the experts say this is the worst natural disaster that has ever hit the Houston area; some say in North America. But the bayous in Texas, the way the drainage—if I can use that phrase—in the Houston area works: Houston is about 50 miles from the Gulf Coast. It is flat. Some areas are just right at sea level.

And we have a system of bayous and creeks that all move through the Houston area down the Gulf of Mexico. So if the water is in Houston, it has got to go southeast to the Gulf of Mexico. And, of course, when the rains came and the floods came up, there was no place for the water to go because there was so much water.

After Hurricane Harvey hammered Houston, it worked its way back out to of the Gulf of Mexico just a little bit to gain some strength, gain more power, and then came back ashore further on down the coast in Jefferson and Liberty Counties, Beaumont, Port Arthur. You probably never heard of those towns, but it went through that area, into parts of Louisiana, and then worked its way on up through Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. I think it finally dissipated and it has gone away.

Let me be a little more specific about what happened in two counties further to the east, two counties that I used to represent as a Member of Congress. Jefferson County is the home to the largest selection or collection of refineries in the United States. About 22 percent of the Nation's refineries are along the channel. Port Arthur and Beaumont are where the refineries are. Port Arthur, Texas, right on the coast, was completely flooded during Hurricane Harvey, and the refineries were shut down. I know that because the gasoline prices have spiked overnight because that fuel is not being produced. Most of those refineries will be back on line very soon, if they are not already on line.

So the flooding was massive. If you take the State of New Jersey and you turn it on its side and set it on the Texas coast from Louisiana down to Corpus, that is the size of the floods and the rains in Hurricane Harvey. It is a massive area that affected a lot of people throughout Texas.

The Second Congressional District that I represent was flooded like most of the congressional districts in the area. And during the rains and the floods that were coming down for those several days, people got into action. They didn't wait for the rains to stop or the floods to stop coming up. Ordinary folks started helping each other.

With the first responders and the volunteers, 72,000 people were rescued. That is a massive number: 72,000. Here is one of those rescues right here. We have got the National Guard, the Texas National Guard came in—all of them came into southeast Texas—rescuing a lady and her child. That is just one photograph of many photographs of rescues that took place.

The amount of water that came down was 50 inches. If you take the Astrodome and fill it with water 86,000 times, that is how much water hit the Houston area. That is an unbelievable amount of water that came into the Houston area.

I would like to talk about a few folks that helped out in the rescue. One of

those individuals was Houston Police Sergeant Steve Perez. I talked about him the other day on the House floor. I would like to mention him again because he is a perfect example of our first responders and what they are willing to do in times of need.

Sergeant Perez was a 60-year-old veteran of the Houston Police Department. He was at the Houston Police Department 34 years. He grew up in San Antonio, Texas, went to ROTC in San Antonio, commissioned as a second lieutenant, and he became a major in the Army Reserve. After that, he moved to Houston, Texas, and joined the Houston Police Department.

Here is a photograph of Sergeant Steve Perez.

He lived in Houston, of course. Rain is coming down. He is going to report for duty. His wife suggested and really encouraged him and begged him not to go because of the floods around where they lived. He is headed to the Houston Police Department headquarters. He could not get there. So he calls on the radio and he was told he couldn't get there.

He found out that the rains were hitting all of the Houston area, especially in a place called Kingwood. Kingwood is about 25 to 30 miles from downtown Houston, up in the northeast area. He is in his car. He turns and started heading up to Kingwood. He goes under an underpass—it is raining real hard—he couldn't see very well, and his car went in, flooded, and he drowned.

Sergeant Steve Perez was married and a father of two.

He was looking for a path to Kingwood for over 2 hours, trying to get there to let folks know they needed to evacuate the area.

Next Wednesday, Sergeant Perez will be buried in Houston. His funeral is at 9 o'clock at a downtown church. There will be hundreds of police officers from all over the State of Texas and other States there to honor him, along with a thousand or more civilians.

Sergeant Steve Perez gave his life in the line of duty, the thin blue line. He was protecting us from the tragedy. Remember, he could have made a choice just not to report for duty that day because he couldn't get to work. He made the choice to take care of other Houstonians.

One other officer I want to mention is Officer Bert Ramon. He has stage IV colon cancer. That is serious stuff, and he reported for duty. He wasn't going to sit out this crisis. He couldn't get downtown, so he teamed up with Houston's Lake Patrol. We have boats in Houston for flooding, but we have Lake Houston and some other big waters where they use boats for different reasons. But he teamed up with the Houston Lake Patrol division.

While he was working with them for 3 days, he rescued 1,500 people, including seniors, children, and handicapped folks; he and the folks he was working with on the Lake Patrol rescued 1,500 people.

I just admire him and all of our first responders who got out in all of this really tough weather to do what they needed to do, but wanted to do. Officer Ramon receives biweekly chemo treatments in Houston for his cancer, but he went ahead and did what he wanted to do to serve and protect the rest of us.

He rescued many of them that were seniors, as I mentioned. He jokes a lot. He told those seniors that they were on the San Antonio River Walk cruise. There is a river that runs through San Antonio through downtown, the River Walk, and he told them they were on the River Walk cruise. He was trying to be lighthearted and put the people that he was rescuing at ease.

Other first responders, firefighters, EMS, of course, the police were working day and night, sleeping at the stations. Many of them had their own homes flooded, yet they are going to do good work for other people.

But they weren't the only ones. Volunteers came to Houston, Dallas, Arlington, San Antonio, Texas; and many from across State lines. I had the opportunity to meet police officers from Ohio; California; Arlington, Texas; and other places, who were there to help. And they came from, like I said, all over the country to help folks.

We had 12,000 National Guard in Texas helping people. That is all the National Guard we had, and they came as well.

I do want to mention the fact that it wasn't just first responders. We had volunteers coming from Boston, Massachusetts. It took them a while to find Texas. I mean, it is a long way away. California and New York sent officers as well to help.

To all of those folks whose names we may never know, we are grateful. Those of us in Houston, Texas, and the affected areas are grateful for those first responders and the volunteers that came from all over the States.

I am not sure you can see this photograph, Mr. Speaker, but this is a long line of pickup trucks and bass boats. I don't know if you own a bass boat or not. It is the dream of every Texas boy growing up to own two things: a pickup truck and a bass boat. I mean, life is good if they can get those two things. There are some other things, but I am not going to mention those at this time.

But here are a bunch of pickup trucks from this end of the poster, all the way to the other end, and these are coming from Louisiana. Louisiana is the next State over from Texas. We love the folks in Louisiana. We claim them; they claim us. Some say we vote in their elections, and they vote in our elections. I don't think that is true, but we are all kindred spirits. But they call this the Cajun Navy. And what the Cajun Navy did was bring not only bass boats and pickup trucks, but they filled these boats up full of Cajun food and supplies, and they came to Texas to do everything they could to help rescue individuals. We appreciate them.

The Cajun Navy weren't the only ones doing this. There were people from other parts of the State. I don't know that you could find Brownwood, Texas, on a map, but it is northwest, sort of in the panhandle area. And there were two young guys. I think they are in their twenties or so. They were watching all of this on television. So they get in their pickup trucks and they drive from Brownwood, Texas, and they stopped in Austin—which is still 200 miles away from Houston—at a Cabela's sport center. They went in there and each one of them bought a bass boat, a motor, and a trailer; hooked it up to their pickup trucks, filled it up with all kinds of stuff that was needed, and they headed to Houston. For 4 days they helped rescue individuals.

This is just a few examples of neighbors helping neighbors.

The folks in the Houston area, Mr. Speaker, they didn't wait for governments—I am not just talking about the Federal Government, but any government—to start helping individuals that needed help during the rescue operations that were for about 4 days. A lot of my constituents, frankly, don't like government. They do things on their own, and that is what people were doing in the Houston area.

You may have seen many of these examples on television. It was heartwarming to see so many people, strangers helping strangers, neighbors helping neighbors. Race or politics had nothing to do with any of this. It was higher than politics. It is all about people. And people jumped in to help. Many people whose own homes were flooded out, yet they had a boat and they are helping other people, helping their neighbors rescue individuals.

There was an elderly man who was trapped inside his SUV, Mr. Speaker, and the neighbors see that he is trapped in his SUV. Floodwaters are coming up. Neighbors and strangers watched, and they didn't know what to do. Water is coming up. They don't have a rope. They can't get to him. So these people who did not know each other form a human chain from dry land to where he was in his SUV as water is coming up and pulled him out, and got him, and rescued him to make sure that he was safe.

□ 1215

The waters in the current were too strong for anybody to swim, so they formed a human chain, and they rescued him, saved him.

Every morning, Mr. Speaker, there is a couple, maybe an elderly couple—they probably don't want to be called that—but a couple in the Houston area who goes to Chick-fil-A in the mornings for breakfast. J.C. and Karen Spencer are their names. They call in and order the same order every day at the same time at the local Chick-fil-A.

The Chick-fil-A manager, Jeffrey Urban, knew them. He would see on the phone the caller ID. He knew the phone

number, and before he even answered the phone, he started preparing what they were going to order because they order the same thing every day.

But on the morning of August 28, as Hurricane Harvey is there in Houston hammering down and unleashing trillions of gallons of water, Jeffrey that morning was closing the restaurant to protect the restaurant from flooding the best he could. He was going to head for home, but the phone is ringing, and he knew who it was. It was J.C. and Karen Spencer who call in every morning.

He thought they were calling for their usual breakfast, a Texas burrito is what they are getting ready to have. So he picked up the phone. But they weren't calling for breakfast. They were calling for help. Their house was completely flooded. The waters were rising fast. They had tried all the emergency numbers. They couldn't get ahold of anybody. They are in their home, they can't get out, and they don't know what to do. They panic, to some extent, so they call Jeffrey at the Chick-fil-A as they do every morning.

So what Jeffrey did was, he didn't just go home. He, along with the restaurant owner, headed to the Spencer's house with their jet ski in tow.

As you can see, here is Jeffrey, and here is Karen. He takes the jet ski, he goes into the house, picks her up, takes her to dry land, and also helps her husband safely leave. It is just a good example of folks just taking care of other people in the area. They were able to get out, and their home was later destroyed.

It is just an example of the spirit of people and the attitude of people in the Houston area when this hurricane happened. I could spend a lot of time telling about other folks, and I am going to tell as many stories as I can.

Speaking of time, Mr. Speaker, can you tell me how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 40 minutes remaining.

Mr. POE of Texas. Good, Mr. Speaker. I will look at the clock and make sure I don't go overboard here.

In Houston, a woman went into labor as Hurricane Harvey flood waters began to rise. She was helped, likewise, by a rescue truck of neighbors and firefighters who, once again, formed that human chain.

Two Beaumont police officers and fire rescue divers spotted a woman and her infant child floating in a canal in Beaumont, Texas. The canal is rushing to the Gulf of Mexico. The canal is full. The crew were able to pull the woman and her daughter from the canal and save their life.

Another mother saved her own child's life. This is what mothers do anywhere in the world. She was 41 years of age. They were in the water for a long time. When they were finally found, the baby was found clutching the chest of her mother. The mother did the best she could to keep the child

above the water, water that she could not apparently touch the bottom of wherever she was, and the two Beaumont police officers and fire and rescue divers pulled them out of the water. The mother later died, but the baby is okay. That is what mothers do, Mr. Speaker. They take care of their kids.

We have a furniture business in Houston. It is owned by kind of a famous guy there. His name is Mattress Mack McIngvale. He is always on TV advertising his store and telling people to come there and he will save them money if they buy stuff at his story. It is called Gallery Furniture.

Here is what happened. At his store, volunteers gathered his delivery trucks on Sunday, used those delivery trucks all over the Houston area—trucks that deliver furniture—and they started rescuing people who were stranded. They rescued 400 children and adults. He didn't take them to a shelter. He took them to his furniture store, and they stayed in his store for several days. I don't know, they may still be there. But he let them live there and form a little cubicle, so to speak, where they could be safe, and he let them stay on their furniture that he had. He even allowed the families to have pets in his store as a rescue place for people who were in need. It was irrelevant that all that furniture was new. He just let them stay there. That is just the way he is and the way other people are.

About 1,500 miles away from Texas, two young boys raised money for hurricane victims in Texas. In western New York, two cousins, Dominic and Evan, started a lemonade stand to raise money for hurricane victims. They sold lemonade for 25 cents and donated all the money to the food bank of Houston.

I have 12 grandkids, Mr. Speaker, and two of them live in Austin, Barrett and Brooklyn. I have had them both here on the House floor before. They and their schools started making packages that they donated for the recovery effort, and those packages were brought to Houston that they donated and made at their schools. They had all kinds of stuff that folks needed and created several of those.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that you have just received a signing of the legislation, the Hurricane legislation as I call it. I missed the signing down the hallway in the Speaker's Office, but now that is sent to the White House I understand.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding for just a moment. I would welcome the opportunity to use the time that the gentleman yields, but I do want to compliment the gentleman for what he has done at this most difficult time and greatly appreciate what he is saying about those who were there to be a help to those in time of need.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN). He and I are very close friends, Mr. Speaker. We both became lawyers the same year in 1973. We worked at the courthouse. I was a prosecutor, and he was a defense lawyer in Houston. We did battle together there. We both resigned our positions, ran, and became judges the same year, spent on the bench 22 years a piece, resigned the same day, ran for Congress, and we both won.

He is a good friend of mine. He and I probably don't agree on a whole lot, but we do agree on some things. Civility is what we need here on the House floor and in Washington, D.C., to discuss things in a civil manner.

So I thank the gentleman for coming by. I appreciate his help. His district is south of mine and got hammered as well during the floods. We are all working together, the Texas delegation and other delegations, to make sure we help folks who have tragedy reach their lives. So I thank the gentleman for his work. We have been working together on this very important issue.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to share this thought with the gentleman because he touched upon a salient point, and that is the notion that we can have unity without uniformity. We can maintain our principles, but we can always find higher ground to stand on. The principles that we have, we don't have to relinquish so that we can do things together.

I am honored that the gentleman and I have been able to do a good many things together. As the gentleman knows, annually he and I work together on the abuse of persons in domestic relations. We have decided that that is something that we don't want to tolerate and that we will stand together against it.

I just want to thank the gentleman again for his many years of service and the service especially in that time of crisis. I greatly appreciate the gentleman.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Judge Green, once again, as I like to refer to the gentleman for all his work here in Congress helping out folks in Texas, and I will continue to work with the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I have talked quite a bit about the floods. I want to mention a couple of other things about the flooding in the Houston area. We have two reservoirs—they call them dams in other places—but they are earthen reservoirs that collect water, and the water is stored in those reservoirs. Both the reservoirs flooded. Water then was let out of the reservoirs and went downstream, as we call it, and flooded houses, as well as the rain.

Here is a photograph of homes that were flooded by the storm but also flooded because Addicks Reservoir

water was being released out of Addicks Reservoir and flooded these homes. But it is just a good example of the area that was flooded in Houston covered 70 percent of the Harris County area at its highest peak. But after the floods, after the rain came and the floodwaters started going down, people started helping in the recovery business, the same folks. People were volunteering to help each other. After the waters started going down, they were in the recovery business.

Churches got involved, of course, government agencies got involved, and first responders got involved. I live up in the Kingwood area in a town called Humble, Texas, and that town got a lot of water and a lot of flooding in it. Near both of those areas, Kingwood and Humble, a lot of churches were working. The Second Baptist Church and St. Martha's Church turned their facilities into a makeshift shelter for those who had need.

I went to Second Baptist while they had a lot of folks there, now they have rescue crews—I say rescue crews—they have crews who are going out to different neighborhoods and helping with the removal of walls, sheetrock and anything else that was flooded. It is not just one or two crews. These are 10-person crews. They have about 70 of these crews—that is 700 people they have going out every day to help people recover some of their property but also get that drywall torn down and ripped off, because in the Houston area, in the summer heat and humidity, water can do a lot of damage if it is not dealt with immediately.

But to all those people, from Second Baptist and St. Martha's and many other faith-based groups, we appreciate the fact that they are out there doing what they can to help other individuals as well.

I mentioned the Cajun Navy. The Cajun Navy—there were other people in boats who helped as well—a lot of boats. You probably saw a lot of them on TV—rubber boats, bass boats, and some people had other kind of boats that they were driving up and down the streets that were flooded. The residents who weren't able to recover, rebuild, take down the sheetrock, for example, in these homes, they got lots of help from other volunteers.

□ 1230

I mentioned Second Baptist Church. There were about 1,600 volunteers who helped at Second Baptist, and they are still helping people.

They have received, as have all of the agencies, the nonprofits, and the government agencies, a lot of supplies, a lot of stuff that is needed for people who have lost everything. It is remarkable. No matter where you go, they are storing all of this. They have a lot of it. Some areas don't have enough room. Some churches don't have enough room to store all of the goods that people can use—clothes, food, and other goods—and they are going to other places.

I say that because these are people who just get it. They are people in the Houston area and people out of State sending what they can. There are 18-wheelers full of stuff from many parts of the country to help people get their lives back together, all donated by corporations, donated by individuals, donated by schoolchildren. They are all headed to Houston. That is being distributed, as well, for people to recover.

Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Harvey, as I mentioned, is certainly the worst that I have ever seen, growing up in the Houston area. Harvey cannot defeat the people in Texas. They are resilient about: We will not be defeated. We will not be victims. We will be survivors and victors over this hurricane.

That is the attitude. You have seen that attitude on national television. You just turn on any TV station and you see that happening. That is the attitude of the people who are there. I think it is an encouraging attitude. It is the Texas spirit, as we like to say. I know it is in other parts of the country, but it is in Texas, as well.

We use the statement: We are Texas strong, we are Houston strong. We are. The folks in the Houston area refuse to let Harvey defeat them. People who don't know each other, people who do know each other, neighbors, strangers, all races, all ages are just out there helping each other. They don't really want a lot of recognition for that. It is just the thing they do.

We are a very diverse community. I think we are the second most diverse, behind New York. We have about an equal number of Whites, Blacks, and Browns. We have a strong Asian population. We speak about 115 languages in the Houston area. Very diverse. But it doesn't make any difference what you look like or how old you are, people were helping each other. And they are still helping each other.

It is people above politics. That is what is taking place. We are not talking politics. Nobody is talking politics. Everybody is talking about people and helping each other.

We do have some minor problems when these tragedies happen nationwide; natural disasters. We have folks in the Houston area—they were out-of-towners—coming to town to do criminal stuff. They wanted to loot.

The sheriff and the chief of police made it real clear early on that looters would be caught and prosecuted. That has happened. There were signs out among the area of Houston about looters and what would happen to them if they were caught. I won't go into those signs, Mr. Speaker, but there were a lot of signs warning looters to not loot this particular property or there would be some unpleasant consequences.

We didn't have a big problem with that. There was some price gouging by some businesses and some individuals. In Texas, if you are a price gouger, there is going to be a day of reckoning. It is against the law. It is a \$20,000 fine

per occurrence. Those people will be prosecuted, the few who were there.

But that is not the emphasis of what I am trying to say today. I am trying to say and want to say thanks to the people of the Houston area and the people who came to Houston to help in the rescue, who are helping now in the recovery, because they need that recognition.

I also want to thank the House. The first bill we took up this week was for Hurricane Harvey recovery. It quickly passed the House and went down the hallway. The Senate passed it, added something to it, it came back to here, and we just recently sent that bill to the President of the United States to sign it. It is about \$15 billion in aid for victims of Harvey.

Most Members of the House supported, especially, the House bill. It shows that we can come together in times of tragedy. We are mindful of the fact that, as we speak here and are recovering in Texas, folks in Florida are watching Hurricane Irma come their way. So we will send those boats that came to Texas and those pickup trucks East and help the people in Florida. This is really an American issue, it is not a Texas issue. We all have to work together on this important time.

Lastly, I would just like to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying the attitude of the people who were affected, to me, is inspirational. The rains came down and the floods came up, like we sang in Bible class about Noah. The floods came up and flooded, but those floods have disappeared. The sun has come out. There is a rainbow over the area and people are putting their lives back together.

There is nothing that can defeat the human spirit. We appreciate Congress quickly sending the \$15 billion in relief money to the area. This is a disaster that some have estimated will cost the Houston economy over \$100 billion. I don't know how much it is.

We will do what we can here in Congress to make sure that we can get aid to people in Texas and those who are going to be affected by the hurricane in Florida. We appreciate our first responders, our civilian volunteers, the military, the National Guard, the Coast Guard, all of our military resources—the Navy even put two ships off the Texas coast to bring in supplies and help—all the volunteers, the first responders, the firefighters, EMS, police, and other agencies that came together to work together to deal with Harvey and not accept defeat, but only accept victory.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN), my friend.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, the gentleman and I have been able to compliment each other, as we properly should, as Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a grateful and prayerful heart. I am grateful to my colleagues, many of

whom called to give their expressions of concern.

Mr. Speaker, it is a wonderful thing to have your colleagues call to let you know how much they care about what is happening in your congressional district. After all, we are Congresspersons of the United States of America, not just the congressional districts that we just happen to represent.

So I am grateful to my many colleagues and leadership calling, all to give their expressions of concern not just for me, but for the people who we all represent as Congresspersons of the United States of America.

I am also grateful for the many lives that were spared. Many lives were spared. I don't know why some people were able to survive in circumstances wherein they should not have, but I do know that I am grateful that they were spared.

I am also very grateful for the many Good Samaritans who were there to extend the hand of friendship in a time of need, who went out of their way to be a neighbor to people they did not know.

I am so grateful to those who came across county lines and State lines to do what only they could do, because many of them had talents and they had various instrumentalities that were of benefit to us in a time of need. So I am grateful to the Good Samaritans.

I am also grateful that we were able to get the \$15 billion that will be a good faith downpayment to those who are still suffering in Houston, Texas, and in other places that this monster visited. I am very grateful that I was in the Speaker's Office and was there to see the actual signing take place. I thank the Speaker for allowing me to be present.

I am prayerful. I am prayerful for those who are still suffering. In my congressional district, there are people who are still in homes that are mold-infested. They need help. I want them to know that there is some help on the way. Obviously, we will have to do more, but I am prayerful that they will have their homes restored.

I am prayerful that they will have their lives return to normalcy. I am prayerful that their children will have the opportunity to get into school as quickly as possible. I am prayerful that they who are suffering will have the hands of our government there to comfort them.

I am prayerful that they will understand that, while others are going to do what they can, only the government of the United States of America can do the heavy lifting necessary. A lot of largesse has come in. A lot of lagniappe is available. But only the government can do this heavy lifting. I am prayerful that they will understand that we are going to do what we can to make sure that they get the help that they need.

I am prayerful for the families that have lost lives. One such family lost a first responder, a Houston police offi-

cer. He lost his life on his way to save lives, to help lives, to help people who were in harm's way. It really gives a true definition of what "in the line of duty" means. In the line of duty, he was taken away from us.

So I am prayerful that his family, as well as all of the other families that have lost lives, will be able to understand that when words cannot satisfy the concerns that you have, when nothing anyone says can make the difference that needs to be made, I am prayerful that they will understand that they can lean on their faith and that faith can see them through that which they can go through no other way. I am prayerful for them.

I am prayerful for my friends in the State of Florida, where I was reared. I was born in Louisiana, reared in Florida. I attended college in Florida. I went to high school in Florida.

Florida is my home, for all practical purposes, except for Texas, where I call home. I am a transplant, obviously, but Texas is home. I am prayerful for my friends in Florida. I have relatives there. They have a monster headed their way—a monster that is going to, unfortunately, create harm and cause damages.

Now, my hope is that it will skirt Florida and that it will go another way. I believe in miracles, and I am asking for a miracle. But I am prayerful for my friends, for fear that this monster will visit Florida.

My prayer is that I will be able to call every one of my colleagues in Florida and let them know that I care about them and their constituents. As I have said, we are all Congresspersons of the United States of America.

□ 1245

I am prayerful for my friends, prayerful for my family, all of whom are in Florida—not the entirety of my family, not the entirety of my friends, but those who are in Florida.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Members of this House, I am grateful to every Member who took the vote to help us in a time of need. I have been here long enough to have the good sense to know that for some it was a hard vote, and I am grateful that you took that hard vote, because I understand that people have principles, they have circumstances that are important to them, and that legislation doesn't always come to everyone the way we would have it come.

I am just grateful for those who took that hard vote because they had rationales and reasons that they could show that, if they were to be consistent, perhaps they would have voted another way. But they took the hard vote, and I am grateful to them.

I am grateful that they did so, and I am prayerful that we will all be able to take the hard votes necessary to accord the people who have been harmed by what happened in Texas and across the Gulf Coast and what is about to happen to those who are in Florida and

other places, I am prayerful that we will have the courage to take these hard votes so that we can make sure that this government does what it is supposed to do, and that is protect its people, provide for their security, and provide for their welfare in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful and I am prayerful.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GARRETT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of the expected birth of his child.

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of work in district.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2017 AND THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FY 2017 THROUGH FY 2026

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2017.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: To facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an up-

dated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2017, and for the 10-year period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026. This status report is current through September 5, 2017. The term “current level” refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President’s signature.

Table 1 in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues to the overall limits, as adjusted, contained in S. Con. Res. 3, as agreed to on January 13, 2017, for fiscal year 2017, and for the 10-year period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act, which establishes a rule enforceable with a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution’s aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2017 because appropriations for those years have not yet been completed.

Table 2 compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for legislative action completed by each authorizing committee with the limits contained in S. Con. Res. 3, as agreed to on January 13, 2017, for fiscal year 2017, and for the 10-year period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026. For fiscal year 2017 and the 10-year period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026, “legislative action” refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the levels set forth in S. Con. Res. 3. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

Table 3 compares the current status of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2017 with the “section 302(b)” suballocations of

discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation. The table also provides supplementary information on spending in excess of the base discretionary spending limits allowed under section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act.

Table 4 compares the levels of changes in mandatory programs (CHIMPs) contained in appropriations acts with the permissible limits on CHIMPs as specified in sections 3103 and 3104 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress). The comparison is needed to enforce a rule established in S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress) against fiscal year 2017 appropriations measures containing CHIMPs that would breach the permissible limits for fiscal year 2017.

Table 5 displays the current level of advance appropriations for fiscal year 2018 of accounts identified for advance appropriations pursuant to Section 3(g) of H. Res. 5. These tables are needed to enforce a rule against appropriations bills containing advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of the Chairman published in the Congressional Record on May 2, 2017 and (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in Section 3(g) of H. Res. 5.

In addition, a letter from the Congressional Budget Office is attached that summarizes and compares the budget impact of legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution against the budget resolution aggregates in force.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Bates or Brad Watson.

Sincerely,

DIANE BLACK,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget.

TABLE 1.—REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2017, AND 2017–2026 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal Year 2017 ¹	Fiscal Years 2017–2026
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	3,327,983	n.a.
Outlays	3,267,647	n.a.
Revenues	2,682,088	32,351,660
Current Level:		
Budget Authority	3,326,827	n.a.
Outlays	3,260,381	n.a.
Revenues	2,682,089	32,351,668
Current Level over (+)/under (–) Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	–1,156	n.a.
Outlays	–7,266	n.a.
Revenues	+1	+8

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2019 through 2026 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

¹ The FY2017 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget was agreed to in S. Con. Res. 3.

TABLE 2.—DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION, COMPARISON OF AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTION WITH 302(A) ALLOCATIONS FOR BUDGET CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

(Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars)

House Committee	2017		2017–2026	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Armed Services:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	0	0	–1	–1
Difference	0	0	–1	–1
Education and the Workforce:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Energy and Commerce:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	–1,000	–1,000
Legislative Action	–256	+40	+2,073	+2,369
Difference	–256	+40	+3,073	+3,369
Financial Services:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0