

every one of the 45,000 residents of Flagler County—a coastal area between Jacksonville and Daytona Beach—had to be evacuated from their homes over the Independence Day weekend.

Mr. President, Mother Nature has once again subjected Florida to unprecedented weather conditions. But with the memories of Andrew's aftermath still fresh in our minds, we know that the national response to our pleas for help is anything but unprecedented—and are moved by the immediacy of Americans' heartfelt offers of assistance.

In response to this crisis, Americans from 44 states are fighting side-by-side with Floridians to prevent these fires from endangering families and engulfing even more homes, businesses, and roads. For example, U.S. Marines, National Guardsmen, and National Weather Service meteorologists from all over the country have converged on Florida.

California, Oregon, and South Dakota—states whose residents are not strangers to violent weather and natural disasters—sent nearly 1300 fire fighting personnel to Florida. North Carolina, a state that is even more heavily forested than my own, sent 47 fire trucks and 169 firefighters to Florida. Pennsylvania, which lost more than 2,200 citizens in less than ten minutes during the catastrophic Johnstown flood of 1889, has contributed 89 volunteers to combat this natural disaster in 1998. In fact, so many states have donated equipment that two-thirds of all the firefighting helicopters in the United States are now working in Florida.

Mr. President, I have lived in Florida for more than sixty-one years. In that

time, I have never observed wildfires as widespread and unmanageable as those that have plagued our state for the last forty-four days. On behalf of 14 million Floridians, I offer my deepest thanks to the thousands of Americans who have voluntarily left their homes and risked their lives so that our state's fire victims might not lose theirs. They are true heroes, and all of us who proudly call Florida our home are forever in their debt.

I am pleased to announce that the Herculean efforts of these brave firefighters were not in vain. Floridians who were forced from their homes have now returned, and almost all of the fires have been brought under control. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support H. Con. Res. 298 to pay tribute to the citizens of Florida and those from around the nation who came to our assistance.

Mr. SHELBY. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 298) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1998

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:15 a.m. on Friday, July 24. I further ask that when the Senate reconvenes on Friday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning

hour be granted and the Senate immediately proceed to the vote on passage of the transportation appropriations bill as previously ordered.

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

Mr. SHELBY. I further ask consent that following disposition of the transportation bill, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1151, the credit union bill.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. SHELBY. For the information of all Senators, tomorrow, at 9:15 a.m., the Senate will vote on passage of the transportation appropriations bill. Following that vote, the Senate will begin consideration of the credit union legislation. The leader has announced that any votes ordered with respect to the credit union bill or any other legislative or executive items will be postponed, to occur on Monday, July 27, at a time to be determined by the two leaders.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:15 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:14 p.m., adjourned until Friday, July 24, 1998, at 9:15 a.m.