

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday marks the fourth anniversary of one of the most tragic days in our Nation's history: September 11th of 2001. We all know what happened following that tragic day. We came together, Democrats and Republicans, focusing on ways in which we could deal with the crisis of terrorist attacks on our soil.

We all know what has happened since that time. We just last week saw what our Chaplain very appropriately described as the worst natural disaster in our Nation's history, and I believe now it is absolutely essential that we do all we can to come together to make sure that we face that number-one priority of meeting the human need that is there.

This Congress is going to do everything we possibly can to ensure that our fellow Americans are comforted. Then, we need to focus on rebuilding.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell my colleagues, in 1994, we had a tragic earthquake in Los Angeles, the Northridge earthquake, and we, at that time, saw the crumbling of I-10, the same interstate that runs into New Orleans. I have a piece of it right here from just over La Cienega Boulevard. When it collapsed, the most traversed freeway in the country, a quarter of a million cars a day go over it, they said it could take up to 2 years to rebuild that freeway. By incentivizing the contractor and reducing the regulatory burden, within 66 days, the Santa Monica Freeway was moving again.

We need to use this same can-do spirit to do exactly what Governor Haley Barbour said. He said, We will build the Gulf Coast bigger and better than it ever has been.

AMERICAN SPIRIT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we return from our district work period, at the forefront of all of us is the catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina which literally turned our Nation upside down.

In my district on the north side of Atlanta, I am so proud of the work that has been done to provide relief support for those directly affected by the storm, the largest natural disaster in our Nation's history. Local towns are sending not just money and goods but personnel from fire and police departments. Our local Red Cross has activated shelters to help evacuees find relatives and get back on their feet. These are Americans helping Americans. The American can-do spirit is alive and well and strong.

But most disheartening has been the vicious, personal attacks against some who are trying their hardest to help folks recover, attacks that have even come from supposed leaders in our Nation. These statements and their tone are harmful to our Nation and our re-

covery. I call on all Americans, especially those in positions of influence, to work positively and constructively to solve our current challenge. Anything less does a disservice to all Americans and, ultimately, our viability as a free and a democratic society.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION BEGINS DAMAGE CONTROL SPIN OPERATION

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the people affected and harmed by Hurricane Katrina and to pledge my total support for their aid and recovery. There is so much to be done to help the people on the ground, and there is so much to do in Washington to scrutinize and improve Federal policy regarding disaster prevention and response, and we must undertake that review and those efforts.

But I am also deeply frustrated and angry by the Bush administration's failed response to this tragedy and its failure to take responsibility for its own mistakes. According to the New York Times, the administration, led by Karl Rove, has begun a political damage control operation to blame the local officials in Louisiana, the Governor and the Mayor of the City of New Orleans, for the Federal Government's failures.

No one can undo the damage that has been done, and I wish we could. We should be putting our efforts into helping these people and repairing that damage. I wish the administration would have put as much energy into an early and timely response, an effective response to Hurricane Katrina, as the energy they are putting in now to developing a political strategy to undermine the local officials who have suffered so much in their own communities.

THANKING THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN PROVIDING RELIEF TO THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this minute and thank the people of my home State of Texas for opening their hearts and opening their State to their neighbors in Louisiana. Almost a quarter of a million residents from the State of Louisiana are now seeking shelter in the State of Texas.

In my district in north Texas, truly an unbelievable story has unfolded. The Dallas County Medical Society sent out a fax last week to 3,600 doctors and their membership; 800 members immediately sent back the response: Where do I show up and when?

That group put together a response for the hurricane victims that is abso-

lutely unprecedented in my experience in medicine. In my own district in north Texas, from Gainesville to Denton to Keller, to the City of Fort Worth, shelters have been set up, sometimes at a church, sometimes at a summer camp, sometimes at an old hospital, but these centers have provided the shelter and the comfort to the victims of this devastating hurricane. And hopefully, we will get them back on their way, get them the help they need and allow them to rebuild their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the people of the great State of Texas for all that they have done to help their neighbors in Louisiana.

HURRICANE KATRINA EXPOSES FAILURE OF FEDERAL POLICIES

(Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina has inflicted destruction, suffering and death on our Nation. The people of Mississippi and Louisiana have our prayers, and they deserve our Nation's full support. Our gratitude also goes out to the relief workers, law enforcement and military personnel who are helping, healing and saving lives.

Now, as one Nation, Congress must act to provide the necessary relief, shelter, jobs, schools and hope our fellow citizens need to restart their lives. This is a long-term commitment, and these families must not be left behind.

Katrina exposed the Federal policies that have neglected and abandoned our Nation's poor, elderly and disabled. Congress must address these shameful failures of the Federal Government's pathetic emergency response that left thousands of Americans vulnerable, exposed and abandoned.

The American people and Katrina's victims deserve action and answers, and Congress has the obligation to deliver both.

WORKING TOGETHER TO FIX WHAT IS WRONG

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the horrors left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina over the past week. Yet, in the midst of this chaos and destruction, the American people, once again, demonstrated their compassion for those left with nothing. The American people and people from all over the world have opened not only their wallets, but also their homes, cities and schools. This compassion has not been limited to Americans alone. Over 70 countries have offered their assistance as well.

Now, a great deal of criticism has been leveled against the Federal Government's response, and much of it may be deserved. But there is also a

level of criticism due to local and State governments, too. Allowing New Orleans to turn into something out of the Wild West where anarchy reigns is inexcusable, and all levels of government need to see what was done wrong. In the meantime, we must work together to ensure that the necessary resources are available.

ENCOURAGING SIMPLIFIED FORM FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to all who have suffered the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. Our hearts also go out to those who have suffered the tragedy of a failed Federal Government in coming to their aid in saving people's lives.

I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to step back for a minute, to stop their campaign out of the White House blaming local and State officials for their role in this tragedy. I also ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to step back from their mission to cut Medicaid \$10 billion, that they step back from their drive to cut taxes for the wealthiest 1 percent of people in this country; because instead of those tax cuts for the wealthy, instead of cutting Medicaid \$10 billion, this Congress should, first of all, adopt legislation that anybody in need of disaster-related assistance should only have to fill a single form out for Medicaid, if they have lost their job, for TANF, for unemployment insurance, for food stamps. The simplified form, instead of the bureaucracy we know they will deal with, could be used to determine eligibility for all Federal programs for a 90-day period, just showing you have lost your job because of Hurricane Katrina, and then they could be helped.

IMMIGRATION PROBLEM IS MORE ALARMING THAN EVER

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because America's immigration problem has grown to be even more alarming to me than it was just 2 weeks ago. Three men were killed in Altoona, Pennsylvania, by an illegal alien who should have been deported years ago.

Miguel Padilla, the alleged killer, has been living in central Pennsylvania for 15 years. He has a driver's license, a registered car. He graduated from a Pennsylvania high school and has been arrested twice for assault with a knife and illegal possession of a gun, all after entering the U.S. illegally.

Al Mignogna, a beloved local businessman; Fred Rickabaugh; and Stephen Heiss, a Marine veteran, were killed in cold blood by Padilla last week.

□ 1430

It is terrible enough when a murder occurs, but to have it happen by someone who should not have been here adds to the despair. This is an example of what happens far too often in our country. When police had Padilla in custody during these arrests, they contacted the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE did nothing and they have no answers to this day. Three murders could have been prevented. It is outrageous for Padilla to go unnoticed by ICE for so long, especially with prior arrests. It is hard enough to find illegal aliens, but when they are handed over to Federal authorities, action needs to be taken.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY AND THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 360) commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 360

Whereas the United States entered the Second World War in December 1941, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and over the next four years Americans participated in what was arguably the greatest national endeavor in the Nation's history;

Whereas the casualty toll of Americans in the Pacific Theater during World War II was approximately 92,904 killed, 208,333 wounded, and tens of thousands missing in action and prisoners of war, with civilians and military forces of the Allied Powers suffering equally devastating tolls;

Whereas Japanese military forces and the Japanese civilian population also suffered staggering losses;

Whereas on August 15, 1945, Emperor Hirohito of Japan announced the unconditional surrender of Japan's military forces, made formal on September 2, 1945, aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan; thus ending the most devastating war in human history;

Whereas Japan is now a free and prosperous democracy, a valued, durable friend based on shared values and mutual interests, and a guarantor against despotism and oppression in that area of the world; and

Whereas the courage and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces and of the military forces of the Allied Powers who served valiantly to rescue the Pacific nations from tyranny and aggression should always be remembered: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific theater;

(2) joins with a grateful Nation in expressing respect and appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific theater during World War II; and

(3) remembers and honors those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for their country during the campaigns in the Pacific theater during World War II.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS), my good friend and colleague, for authoring this resolution. The gentleman is a Member who is considerably schooled in the Far East and knows well the effects which the war in the Pacific had, not only on Japan, but on other nations in the region.

The gentleman from Florida is also a senior member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I know that he has been a leader in ensuring that no veteran is ever left behind. He is also the author of the Millennium Health Care Act, which puts a special emphasis on providing long-term health care, especially to our World War II veterans. So it is very fitting, I think, that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is the author of this resolution, and I thank the gentleman for introducing it.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 360 is a resolution that recognizes the 60th anniversary of victory in the Pacific during World War II, V-J Day.

Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago the guns fell silent and the world was able to begin the process of, paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg when he said, we will bind up our Nation's wounds when we begin the very difficult and arduous process of binding up the world's wounds. The loss of life was indeed staggering; the process of rebuilding seemingly insurmountable. But just as Americans had rallied in war, Americans rallied in peace as well.

This resolution reiterates the simple, but very powerful, message that our Nation honors and deeply appreciates