

Cement Finisher Apprenticeship Program with Cement Masons Local #744 at the old Craftsmen Hall on Centre Street. Construction work was slow in San Diego, so he went to work for a Custom Auto repair shop for a short time. In August 1959, Mac went to work for Benton Roofing Co. as a roofer loader, then as a roofer for Veteran's Roof Co. He then advanced to journeyman, foreman and superintendent with Witherow Roofing Co.

In 1978, he was elected as a delegate to the Roofers International Convention in Miami. In December of that year, he was elected to the office of Business Agent of Roofers Local #45 where he served also as the Apprentice Coordinator and Secretary of the JATC. He held this office for three terms, a total of nine years. In 1986, due to the finances of the local, the position of business agent was eliminated and he was voted in as president, a non-paying position.

In 1987, he obtained a C-39 Roofing Contractor's license and signed an agreement with Local #45. In 1993, he was unanimously voted to the office of Business Manager, where he also serves as the Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Agent, Organizer, Apprentice Coordinator, Chairman of the Apprenticeship JATC, and Apprentice classroom instructor.

Mac also serves as a trustee to the Roofers Trust and is one of the directors at the National City Parks Apartments. Mac re-joined the "Johns" in 1993 and plans to be a lifetime member. After serving 12 years in Roofers Local #45 as Business Manager, Mac plans to retire in December of this year, but will continue to assist with the Apprenticeship Program.

Mac has been married to his wife Karen for 31 years and they have lived in North Park since 1974.

I am proud to salute Mac Colmenero on his recognition with the Johns Fellowship Award!

HONORING MARGARET DAVIES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Ms. Margaret Davies. On September 11, 2005, family and friends will gather to honor Margaret, as she celebrates her 90th birthday.

Margaret Rowe was born on September 13, 1915 in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she attended Little Rock Public Schools. She later moved to my hometown of Flint, MI, where she married Jay B. Davies in 1946. Margaret and her husband Jay had two children, Jimmy Davies, currently of Durham, NC, and Kim Smith of Indianapolis, IN. Mr. and Mrs. Davies were also blessed with three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The two enjoyed a marriage of 33 years, until Jay's passing in 1979.

Margaret has been a longtime resident of Genesee County. She worked for many years at the YMCA until retiring in 1983, and was an active member of Holbrook Avenue Church of God. Today she can often be found reading her Bible or sending e-mails to her loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress representing Genesee County, I ask my col-

leagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in not only recognizing Margaret Davies for her outstanding life, but to wish her a very happy 90th birthday.

ON CONSIDERATION OF EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset that my thoughts, prayers, and condolences continue to go out to all of the victims and citizens whose lives have been ravaged by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

And I must also commend the efforts of communities across this great Nation, for opening their hearts and homes to the victims of this tragedy.

In my district, the Beattie Road Church of Christ, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the Albany Marine Corps Logistics Base, Fort Benning, Norman Park Assembly, the Southwest Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross and the many others who are too numerous to mention, but who have opened their hearts, homes and wallets to help the nearly 800 victims of Katrina who are now foster residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, should be recognized as well.

Two weeks ago, I do not think any of us could have imagined using the word "diaspora" to describe the lives of American citizens. But that is the situation that we are now faced with.

We are all too familiar with the horrific images coming from the Gulf Coast: images of our own people suffering, images that I know will always haunt me as I am sure that they will haunt you.

I also know that we are all too familiar with the accusations and mistakes that have been made at FEMA and at other levels of government. These are legitimate accusations that deserve an investigation.

In the end, however, it is what we do now that matters. That is why I am standing here today because I believe that we are still mismanaging this crisis, particularly the resources and assistance being provided evacuees as they disperse throughout the United States.

Just yesterday, my staff received several calls from the families of evacuees who have been relocated to the State of Georgia, whose needs are not being fully addressed by FEMA.

We have been told of several cases where evacuees, who are lucky enough to get a FEMA debit card, quickly learn that it has yet to be activated or simply doesn't work.

We continue to hear that it is very difficult and almost impossible to reach FEMA by phone, despite FEMA's ongoing and specific request that evacuees contact the agency by phone or e-mail. I question where these evacuees are going to get computer access, just as I know their access to telephones is limited.

But even more horrific are the stories of evacuees, panhandling, without clothes, without shoes, without any place to turn.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the America I know. FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security must be held accountable and, they must be held accountable today, not tomor-

row, not next week, not next month, but today and each and every day in the future, until the victims of the Katrina Diaspora are allowed to return home or are appropriately resettled in a community of their choosing.

Just as all persons of Jewish decent have a right to return to their homeland in Israel, we must ensure that all victims of the Katrina Diaspora be given the right and opportunity to return to their homes.

Finally, I applaud the leadership on both sides of the aisle for taking this matter up today.

I do not care about sound bites or political advantage here. Those concerns do not help the millions of Americans who have been robbed of everything.

What I am concerned with and what all of us across the Nation should be concerned with, is how we move forward in an effective and responsive fashion.

Are we correcting our administrative mistakes and missteps on a daily basis?

Are we taking care of our citizens?

This is the time to pull together, not apart. This is the time to work together, to share ideas and to use our collective wisdom and energy to get the job done. Even if this means admitting that we have made mistakes.

We must be clear that this is just a down payment on meeting the costs of this disaster. There is a long road ahead. And it is my hope that what we are doing here today provides the short term relief that is so desperately needed by the victims of Katrina.

Only time will tell if we are adequately meeting the needs of the victims of this awful tragedy.

SECOND KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3673, the second emergency supplemental bill for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We, in North Carolina, are very familiar with the destructive power of hurricanes, and Congress has a solemn responsibility to assist the efforts for relief, recovery and reconstruction.

Congress also has a serious responsibility to assure accountability in the use of taxpayer money, and the legislative branch must not fail in its constitutional duty to oversee the operations of the executive branch. There can be no doubt that the Federal agencies charged with responding to this disaster were too slow, too confused and too ineffectual in discharging their duties in the critical early hours and days of Hurricane Katrina. Congress must take effective action to ensure that the funds appropriated today will assist those who have suffered so egregiously through no fault of their own.

This tragedy has raised urgent questions about the performance of disaster preparedness and emergency response agencies. Congress must work in bipartisan cooperation to correct these deficiencies. As the U.S. Department of Homeland Security continues to work to protect our country during the war against terrorism and in the midst of a very active hurricane season, America cannot afford a failure

by Congress to fix the problems Hurricane Katrina has exposed.

H.R. 3673—SECOND EMERGENCY
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great concern with the situation still being faced by families devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

As needed relief is finally making its way down to the affected region, our thoughts go out to all the victims and their families. Late last week, this body passed a \$10.5 billion aid package that will provide initial funding for immediate and long-term responses. Today, we are passing an additional \$51.8 billion. This funding will cover only a sliver of the final financial toll taken on communities throughout the Gulf Coast and what will be needed for families to re-start their lives. Yet this monetary cost pales in comparison to the immense emotional and human cost that continues to grow.

At the end of the day, the United States government is constitutionally obligated to “insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, [and] promote the general welfare” for all citizens. Particularly during a time of crisis, it is absolutely necessary that these obligations be fulfilled. In that regard, the federal government has failed. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina last week, thousands of families, stranded, injured, homeless, and without basic necessities of water and food waited and waited and waited for emergency relief. For four days, the President, Congress, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) minimized to themselves and to the public the immensity of what was occurring. The very institutions established to serve and protect the American people instead watched and waited as the tragedy grew.

The response of the government to the needs of these communities was demonstrably and woefully inadequate. I am pleased that an investigation has been launched to discover why the government agencies entrusted with providing emergency aid failed to respond in any meaningful way to the grave situation. Ultimately, we must determine what changes need to be made in order to ensure that future relief efforts are not hindered by incompetent management or bureaucratic obstructions, as they were last week. However, we will only find true accountability with a bipartisan, independent commission to investigate what went wrong.

Natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina can never be prevented, no matter how well prepared we may be. However, shifting natural conditions on the planet indicate that we may soon be seeing an increase in such events. In early August 2005, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) released a report stating that environmental conditions guaranteed an increase in destructive and powerful hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. Already this year we have seen an increase in hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. Such a warning has been voiced for some time, and we are now seeing the results if we continue to

ignore such information. Additionally, the New Orleans Times-Picayune predicted this very disaster as recently as 2002. President Bush’s assertion that “no one could have predicted” this disaster is clearly, and tragically, wrong.

Through the generosity of millions of Americans, those families affected by the hurricane are receiving some of the help they need, and I have absolutely no doubt that they will prevail in rebuilding their lives and their community. We must pledge to do all we can to help.

As we proceed with the long-term solutions, we need to make sure we do the right thing here in Congress. It is our job to make choices and these choices reflect our priorities. I hope the majority will acknowledge that many of the choices made in recent years were ill-advised. Together, we need to put the financial resources to work to improve the lives of survivors. It is not the time for business-as-usual, cut-taxes-at-all-costs, short-change-the-working-poor proposals we have come to expect from the majority. We can do better, and we must.

H.R. 3673—SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, in less than a week, we will have passed supplementals providing over \$60 billion in emergency aid to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. We have been told we are spending about \$2 billion a day in hurricane response efforts. We all want to care for those who have suffered damaged homes and those who have been left homeless, many with literally only the shirts on their backs, by this terrible storm. I realize many face an uncertain future with unemployment gone and only questions remaining.

At the same time, \$60 billion spent over 6 weeks creates an opportunity for waste and unwise spending decisions. I want the funds to go to those who need it and those who have and continue to suffer. But we also owe it to our constituents—and indeed perhaps even more to Katrina’s victims—that these funds be spent based on careful consideration of what is needed and what is the best and most effective—and cost effective—method for achieving our goals.

Chairman LEWIS has stressed the accountability provisions included in the bill. The Inspector General of the Homeland Security Department will be monitoring the expenditure of these funds. The Appropriations Committee will receive weekly reports on how the funds are allocated.

We all want to respond to this disaster in the most compassionate way possible. But we also have an obligation as elected officials to ensure that funds we spend are carefully considered, used for true critical and emergency functions, and spent wisely.

Once all are out of harms way with immediate needs met, I hope that we will slow down and move forward in a deliberative way as we consider continued response and, most importantly, long-term plans for rebuilding the Gulf Coast. We will be held accountable, as we should be, for the investment of the funds.

While the American people want us to be generous, there are many hard decisions ahead. It is incumbent on all of us in the Congress to ensure that we invest our taxpayer dollars in the most responsible way.

SECOND EMERGENCY SUPPLE-
MENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR
HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to the people of the Gulf Coast and their loved ones who have been so profoundly affected by Hurricane Katrina. My deepest gratitude goes out to all those engaged in relief efforts.

Our nation is grieving. The images and stories broadcast from flooded streets and makeshift shelters will be forever engraved in our minds and hearts. Hurricane Katrina has collectively wounded us. But, out of this anguish, an intense commitment has emerged—to stand alongside the brave survivors during this time of recovery.

While Katrina’s historic rampage of the Gulf Coast can be measured in hours, recovery will likely be recorded in terms of years and billions of dollars. Last week, Congress provided a “down payment” of \$10.5 billion. We are here today to approve a \$51.8 billion disaster relief package to aid further recovery efforts. All support—given recent events—carry grave concerns about how money will flow to those suffering from this natural and man-made disaster.

Like many, I am alarmed over apparent delays, and lack of communication and coordination. But, these frustrations cannot distract us from the work ahead of us. Our priorities are clear: Focus on Katrina’s survivors, first.

Many of the survivors have lost loved ones, are homeless, and face the terrifying prospect of starting their lives over. Nevertheless, they have demonstrated a remarkable resiliency in a desire to move forward and need support to do so.

Families have been separated, and must be reunited.

The injured and sick need care and treatment, including a wide array of mental health services.

My office has been in direct contact with local disaster response officials to ensure that San Diego’s available resources are aiding those suffering in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Members of San Diego’s Urban Search-and-Rescue Taskforce have left for the Gulf Coast to provide assistance, as well as a variety of first responders and military personnel.

After we have seen to the needs of those hurt by Katrina, let’s look at the broader picture. There must be a thorough and independent review of the response effort in the coming days. We need to answer the serious questions and concerns Hurricane Katrina raised about emergency planning. Namely, we need to address the care and evacuation for the vulnerable in our communities when emergencies arise.

On a personal note—based on my volunteer experience with the Red Cross after Katrina’s landfall—we need to develop an efficient