

affected area and the rest of the country deserve a more sustainable and financially rational approach than simply printing and spending money.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in full support of H.R. 3645 to provide financial relief to the millions of those affected by Hurricane Katrina. My prayers go out to the victims and their families. Despite a massive search and rescue effort to locate victims of Hurricane Katrina, many still remain in harm's way while scores of others attempt to piece together what is left of their lives. As such, we are faced with the difficult task of providing the attention and resources in order to rescue those still in danger; providing comfort to those without food, clean water, or shelter; and preventing further devastation from disease. This funding will provide the Federal Emergency Management Agency with just enough money to get started on immediate disaster assistance.

However, this is just the beginning of our financial commitment to the people of these ravaged areas. The \$10 billion will give our emergency responders the means to save and help rebuild lives in the short-term, but the long-term funding situation is uncertain and daunting. It is too early to estimate the final cost of rescue operations or the huge task of caring for the victims of this enormous tragedy. It is my understanding that total costs could exceed \$100 billion. I will continue to support whatever funding is needed for as long as it takes to rescue all in danger and to help our fellow Americans rebuild their lives.

As is always the case with a disaster of this magnitude, we must closely examine what could have been done differently and try to make right what once was wrong. In this instance, many factors combined to cause such widespread destruction and loss of life. The key questions are: what could have been done to properly plan for such a disaster and what should have been done to respond more quickly once the destination of Katrina was confirmed.

Proper planning on the part of the local and State governments was severely lacking. The decision to evacuate New Orleans without making provisions to transport people too poor to own or too sick to operate a vehicle was a moral abomination. We basically left people to see if they would die and many of them did. Every evacuation response plan in the Nation should, by federal law, be required to include transportation plans for such people. The excuse that this catastrophe was unpredictable is nonsense—scientists and engineers have been saying for years that a hurricane with Katrina's force could break the levees and flood the city of New Orleans. Despite these specific warnings, the local and State governments were woefully underprepared to deal with the magnitude of this disaster.

The slow response of the Federal government is equally abysmal and even more troubling. The Administration showed its indifference to the people in the Gulf by waiting until Saturday, September 3rd to deploy 7,200 active-duty ground troops. However as soon as the storm passed, it was clear that the local and State governments were overwhelmed by the magnitude of the disaster. President Bush should have deployed these troops to the region as soon as the levee broke on Tuesday, if not sooner. All of the available resources of the federal government should have been mobilized immediately to evacuate people and organize food, shelter, and medical operations. In the days after Katrina's winds and rain subsided, it is indisputable that the Federal government failed the people of the Gulf Region.

Rather than acknowledge these shortcomings, the administration has brazenly lauded the Federal response. President Bush and others glossed over the fact that many people died as a result of the government's incompetence and indifference. The inadequate response to this disaster demonstrated to me that we have learned little from the lessons of September 11, 2001, and we are ill-prepared to deal with a major national disaster whether it be a natural or man-made.

I am determined to play whatever role I can in changing our Federal response system so that this type of gross negligence does not happen again. Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my support for H.R. 3645 and I pledge my continued support for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for the thousands of emergency personnel who continue to work tirelessly to help the hundreds of thousands of people affected by Hurricane Katrina. The devastation caused by this hurricane is epic and we are only beginning to learn of the total destruction it caused. Yet, in the face of enormous adversity, thousands of Americans put their own lives on the line to help their fellow Americans in need.

These individuals worked themselves into exhaustion both mentally and physically. Without their sacrifice, thousands more Americans would have lost their lives from this devastating storm. Mirroring September 11, 2001, local first responders were once again on the front lines.

None of us shall soon forget the images of our brave men and women who serve in the United States Coast Guard. This disaster brought a new meaning to the term "search and rescue." Petty Officer Eric Sciubba arrived in New Orleans Monday and said crewmembers found themselves trying rescue techniques never before attempted. Replacing Scuba gear with axes, Americas' "Coasties" found themselves chopping through roof tops to reach trapped victims.

At one particular house, Petty Officer Sciubba found an invalid woman in even more peril than most in New Orleans. Her feeding tube had stopped working, and Sciubba found

her in bed on her home's first floor, with her head barley sticking above water. The helicopter couldn't reach the stranded couple through the back yard, and with the front door locked, Sciubba knew that time was their number one enemy. Finally, the man inside the house was able to get the door unlocked and both individuals were brought to safety. This couple was among the 109 people Petty Officer Sciubba's crew pulled from disaster to safety before returning to Ellington Field on Thursday.

And that is just one of the hundreds of incredible rescues made by the Coast Guard.

We certainly will not forget the sacrifice made by the tens of thousands of National Guard, many of whom recently returned or are soon being deployed to Iraq, who sacrificed their precious time with family and loved ones to help those in need and return order to a city in chaos.

America has faced many challenges in its history and Hurricane Katrina will be written as one of its greatest. Yet once again, this great country will meet and overcome this latest challenge and will triumph in the face of adversity. This great Nation of ours will once again show the world its courage, conviction and will to overcome.

EVERGREEN TROOP 361

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Evergreen Troop 361 of the Mission Amigos District from the San Gabriel Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America. On October 22nd, Troop 361 will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Troop 361 was founded with twelve boys in 1955 by members of the Evergreen Baptist Church in Los Angeles. Since 1955, Troop 361 has enjoyed the excellent sponsorship of the Evergreen Baptist Church. The Church, and Troop 361, subsequently moved to the City of Rosemead, and the Troop transferred to the Mission Amigos District of the San Gabriel Valley Council. With its beautiful mountains and proximity to the ocean, the San Gabriel Valley is the ideal place for boys to learn the scouting ways, as one of the mainstays of the Boy Scouts program is participation in a wide array of outdoor activities.

Over the years, Troop 361 has grown and thrived. Hundreds of scouts have passed through the ranks of Troop 361, and it is a further testament to the strong leadership and high caliber of young men that over 80 scouts in this troop have earned the most prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Today, Troop 361 is proud to have 55 outstanding scouts under the leadership of Ted Sakamoto, a Scoutmaster who has dedicated thousands of hours to ensuring that Troop 361 remains strong and successful.

Troop 361 is an integral part of the proud tradition of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts of America develop and nurture in our youth a strong sense of character, leadership, and respect. Boy Scouts are well-rounded, resourceful, and responsible, and Troop 361 exemplifies all of these qualities.

I am proud to congratulate Troop 361 on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and I ask all