

company to tremendous growth during his tenure. Business Week named him Top Manager in 1995. Lew was also a pioneer in working to elevate women to top executive posts and was recognized with the Catalyst Award in 1991 for his efforts.

In writing about Lew this Monday, Business Week praised him again: "Platt was respected, admired, and just plain liked by HP employees, customers, and even rivals. Platt was genuine, self-effacing, and honest. He was quick to give personal accolades to others, and to accept criticisms . . . with grace."

It was his integrity, I think, that brought Boeing to seek his leadership at a time when it was beset with controversy at its highest levels. Leading the company's Board, he was able to provide critical stability when it was needed most.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure to know Lew Platt and to work with him. He was a gentle man with a superb intellect. He was taken from us too soon and had so much more to give, but he leaves a rich legacy of family, of leadership and of extraordinary contributions to our community and our country. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and work of this good man and extending to his wife and entire family our deepest and sincere sympathy.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES  
OF THE NATION TO THE VICTIMS  
OF HURRICANE KATRINA

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I am a co-sponsor of this resolution which expresses the Nation's condolences to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and commends the resiliency of the citizens of the States impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Our hopes and prayers go out the men, women, and children whose lives have been forever changed by this tragic natural disaster. We have all been moved by the images of destruction in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and the lives taken by Hurricane Katrina.

We have also been moved by the flood of compassion that is replacing the flood waters of Katrina. As we mourn the dead and express our sympathy to those who have lost loved ones, we can take heart in the efforts of those who are aiding the recovery effort.

We have been inspired by the efforts of private citizens and organizations to help those in need. From doctors to nurses to police officers and many others, Americans are pulling together to help their fellow citizens in the Gulf Coast States.

I am proud of the work of the service men and women from Wright Patterson Air Force Base in my district in Dayton, Ohio in aiding the relief effort. Additionally, I have been overwhelmed by the number of phone calls to my offices from Ohioans who are anxious to help in whatever way possible the people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, we will always remember the victims of Hurricane Katrina and we will continue to help the people of the gulf coast as

they rebuild their homes and their lives, and thank those working to assist those who have endured what most of us cannot imagine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2005*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed in meetings with my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Roll Call 465, 466, and 467.

INVESTIGATING THE KATRINA  
CATASTROPHE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support for the implementation of an independent and bipartisan commission that will lead a thorough investigation that will pinpoint what went wrong before, during and in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Long before Hurricane Katrina hit land as a category five hurricane, engineers, environmentalists and military personnel have known for years that a strong hurricane, like Katrina could devastate bowl-shaped New Orleans, prompting questions about why more was not done in advance to mitigate the damage or respond more effectively in the storm's wake. For years, scientists have warned local, state and federal officials that the strength of a storm like Katrina would threaten the integrity of the 287 year old levee system and could cause massive flooding of the New Orleans area, if the system was not properly improved and maintained.

Now, as survivors are slowly evacuated and are receiving the help they so direly need, the world is beginning to ask some pertinent questions. They are legitimately questioning the efficacy of the responses from each level of government, especially the slow and inadequate response of FEMA and the Federal government whose policies and government cutbacks might be responsible for the loss of thousands of lives. How does an event such as the Katrina Catastrophe occur when there was previous knowledge that the levees were in disrepair?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had been working with local officials to strengthen the city's defenses in case of a massive storm, but federal funding for improving the levee system and implementing other projects to keep water from overtaking New Orleans decreased under the Bush administration. The Corps of Engineers responsible for maintenance had approximately \$114 million worth of hurricane protection projects, however with federal funding down 44 percent; no new contracts for construction had been awarded since early in fiscal year 2004.

Why? The Iraq war took priority over domestic disaster prevention. As a result, the money needed to strengthen national infrastructures against natural disasters was transferred into the President's budget to fund

homeland security and the war on Iraq. Also, our National Guard who is responsible for protecting our homeland from the threat of disaster was greatly affected by this administration's policies. As people begged through news cameras for food, water and shelter, our National Guardsmen were far and few in between. Most of them were fighting and continue to fight in Iraq. Most importantly, much of the equipment and materials needed, like the Guard's high water vehicles, re-fuelers and generators required to execute rescue missions, provide food, water and medicine to those trapped on their roofs or in attics were transported to Iraq.

In addition, the Bush administration made significant structural changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), shifting funds away from pre-disaster preparation and implementing policies promoting outsourcing of relief efforts to private companies. With regards to Louisiana, FEMA denied Louisiana funding for pre-disaster preparation, which would provide the means for items that would better equip the local government for a storm such as Katrina. Meanwhile, top officials of FEMA were forewarned that cutting cost would result in a slow response times in cases of emergencies, which took place in the wake of the hurricane.

Although the federal government's response and policies aided in this resulting tragedy, the local and state governments should not be left without responsibility. Although the Mayor had issued a mandatory evacuation of the city, given the economic background of much of New Orleans' citizens many of them did not have the means to evacuate. Why wasn't there transportation provided? Moreover, there didn't seem to be a well formulated "worst-case scenario" evacuation and rescue plan beyond the Superdome and the Convention Center, which would facilitate a more mellifluous process of communication between the state and local officials, and the citizens of New Orleans.

The brave citizens of New Orleans and the people of this nation want answers. We need to find out what went wrong on every level, so that we will be well equipped to efficiently handle another event like Hurricane Katrina and prevent something like this from happening in the future. I am in full support of an independent, bipartisan commission, similar to the 9/11 commission that would investigate and assess the efficacy of responses by each level of government. This commission would establish why leaders ignored urgent warnings that New Orleans would be destroyed if it sustained a direct hurricane hit. This body would assess why the notion that if a mass evacuation occurred, thousand of poor people would be left behind without any means of escape was ignored; and why the protective levees were not strengthened despite expert predictions that they would not withstand a major hurricane. In addition, the breakdown in communication and coordination between local, state and federal agencies urgently needs to be investigated, especially now that we are under constant threat of terrorist attacks.

Lastly, the actions of FEMA and its director Michael Brown who revealed his ineptitude when he appeared not to know that thousands of victims were stranded inside the New Orleans Convention Center, under deplorable conditions, despite reports about it on news broadcastings, must be thoroughly examined.

Most importantly I want to stress that this commission must be independent and bipartisan, no administration could credibly investigate such an immense failure on its own watch. We owe it to the flood victims of New Orleans to give them truthful answers as to why this event took place and to assure our citizens that tragedies like this will never happen again.

TRIBUTE TO MS. AUDREY BERRY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Audrey Berry. This week, Ms. Berry will be retiring from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) where she served for over 12 years at DOE's Grand Junction Office on Colorado's Western Slope.

Her work at DOE, as well as her long career in public service, demonstrates her dedication and commitment to community concerns and enhancing the quality of life for those in Colorado, the Rocky Mountain region and across the country.

Serving as a Public Affairs Specialist at DOE's Grand Junction Office since January 25, 1993, Ms. Berry consistently has demonstrated a high level of performance. At this position she successfully engaged the communities surrounding DOE's Fernald and Mound Sites in Ohio and the Rocky Flats Site near Denver, Colorado in the establishment of Local Stakeholder Organizations, which provide opportunities for the public to comment on and be involved with the ongoing monitoring of the cleanup at these former nuclear weapons production facilities. She also helped develop a successful transition strategy for public participation at DOE sites that are slated for closure.

Ms. Berry also was instrumental in establishing one of the first DOE Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSAB) in November 1993 for the Monticello uranium mill tailings remediation site in Monticello, Utah. She developed the application for perspective members and interviewed applicants; managed the budget for the duration of the SSAB; provided DOE-Headquarters with required reports and action; organized meetings, was the liaison between the members, DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Utah; followed up on action items; was responsible in attempting to meet diversity requirements, and resolved issues of concern. Ms. Berry also was instrumental in disbanding the SSAB when the mission was completed. Her involvement with the community of Monticello continued for six years.

Also at the Monticello site, Ms. Berry organized, developed and implemented the plan to transfer DOE property located at the Monticello site to the City of Monticello for recreational use. Utilizing the General Services Administration and National Park Service's "Lands to Park" Program, the property was successfully transferred in June 2000.

Ms. Berry also supported numerous projects assigned to DOE's Grand Junction Office. During her tenure, she developed public participation plans and established outstanding relationships with numerous stakeholder

groups, including congressional, state and local officials, tribal members, special interest groups, citizen's advisory boards, the media, and individual citizens. In order to successfully interface with the multiple contacts she enjoyed, Ms. Berry possessed a broad technical knowledge of all of the assigned projects.

Ms. Berry also organized and conducted numerous workshops and conferences for DOE's Grand Junction Office. Most notably, four Long Term Stewardship Workshops were held, each with 225 to 300 attendees. And, she organized a Stakeholders Conference on Worker Transition and Legacy Benefits for DOE's Office of Legacy Management. This effort was especially important and noteworthy. She recognized, as do many at DOE, that providing health care and benefits for people who worked at DOE sites—sites that involved the handling of hazardous materials—is an important obligation that we as a nation owe to these workers. Her attention to detailed plans has assured successful and well-attended events and helped promote policies to address worker transition issues and public involvement regarding the long-term integrity of cleanup and closure of DOE sites.

Ms. Berry has been the recipient of at least 16 various awards, namely Special Act Awards, Individual Incentive Awards, and Group Awards during her tenure with DOE's Grand Junction Office.

Before joining DOE in 1993, she served as the Western Slope Office Director for Colorado Senator Tim Wirth. At this position, she helped constituents address issues and concerns with federal programs and policies. Prior to working for Senator Wirth, she performed the same service to citizens of Colorado's Western Slope in Representative Ray Kogovsek's office when he represented the 3rd Congressional District in Colorado.

Ms. Berry's work at all of these offices underscores her deep commitment to service for the communities she has served. What's especially impressive has been her personal touch—the way that she interacts with people so that they are included in policy decisions and treated with seriousness and respect. In so doing, she has been effective in getting the job done and involving the public and various stakeholders. Her accomplishments and style are models for the type of quality in public service that we all can seek to emulate.

I am sure that Ms. Berry will remain active in issues of importance to communities along Colorado's Western Slope or wherever life takes her. I wish her much future success.

PENN STATE FAYETTE CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2005*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus as it celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2005–2006. From its humble beginnings to its present status, Penn State Fayette had played a key role in the social, cultural, and economic development of Fayette County.

Penn State first came to scenic Southwestern Pennsylvania following the establishment of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension Service and its county agricultural agents in 1907. In 1934, Penn State established an Undergraduate Center in Uniontown that provided the first two years of a college education to area residents "location bound" and/or unable to afford studies at the University Park campus. This Center closed in 1940 as the nation turned its attention to the approaching war. However, Penn State returned to Southwestern Pennsylvania with undergraduate educational programming on June 1, 1965, when it opened the Fayette campus to serve the residents of Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. Penn State Fayette began by first offering classes in several buildings in downtown Uniontown. Then, in 1968 the Fayette Campus Advisory Board acquired 27 acres of the Garner Farm, located between Uniontown and Connellsville.

Since that time, the campus has grown to about 100 acres and 10 buildings: the renovated Eberly Building (named for Orville S. Eberly), the University House (once the Garner home), the Williams Building (the redesigned student center named for J. Lewis Williams), a state-of-the-art library, a gymnasium, an engineering building, the Biomedical Technology Building, and several other farm and maintenance buildings.

Penn State Fayette now has five baccalaureate degrees in Administration of Justice; Nursing; Human Development and Family Studies; Letters, Arts, and Sciences; and Business Administration. Penn State Fayette also offers nine associate degrees: Architectural Engineering Technology; Electrical Engineering Technology; Business Administration; Human Development and Family Studies; Letters, Arts, and Sciences; Information, Sciences, and Technology; Nanofabrication Manufacturing Technology, Science, and Nursing.

Responding to urgent statewide needs in 1987, Penn State Fayette established a training and certification program for emergency medical technicians. Today the Continuing Education Department offers credit, non-credit, and management development courses both on campus and off campus at the Uniontown Mall, United Parcel Services in New Stanton, and Somerset Hospital, Uniontown Hospital and Frick Hospital.

The faculty at Penn State Fayette fulfill two roles for the student body with their commitment not only to teaching but also to advising. The faculty have received national and University awards for teaching, research, community outreach, and performance in English, art, philosophy, history, physics, chemistry, administration of justice, and engineering technology. The size of the student population allows for personal interaction between instructors and students, and the dedication of the faculty makes this interaction a tremendous aid to learning.

The many campus activities and events contribute to an atmosphere of unity. Over twenty-five clubs and organizations match the interests of almost every student. The intramural organizations include eight different sports occurring year round. Students have access to a large, well-equipped library, a