

their communities to rebuild. I applaud the gaming industry for all they do.

□ 1015

THANKS TO QATAR

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we as a people should take note of those who immediately rushed forward to help. As a senior member of the International Relations Committee, I rise today to express my personal gratitude as well as that of my fellow Americans to the royal family and to the people of Qatar who once again demonstrated their generosity, friendship, and solidarity with the people of the United States at a time of our maximum suffering.

When it really counted, Qatar stepped forward with a generous gift of \$100 million to the American victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Qatar is a small country, yet it must rank near the top of America's list of friends and allies. With the leadership of a thoughtful and progressive royal family, Qatar is building democratic institutions including elections, freedom of press and religion, and a recognition of the rights of women.

Furthermore, after 9/11, our military was permitted to establish its headquarters in Qatar, which is vital to the safety of our troops and the success of America's operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Thank you, Qatar. You have proven to be friends when we needed you the most, and we will not forget it.

HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES IN THE DREAM CENTER

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend I visited the Dream Center in Los Angeles, California, which is currently housing over 250 evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. The Dream Center has committed to feeding, housing and clothing these evacuees. The stories that I heard from them are gut wrenching. I met a woman who escaped with her two nephews and her 80-year-old mother, Sheila Bell.

I also visited with a father who was caring for his youngster who is 1 year old. But Mrs. Bell, unfortunately, was separated from her daughters. Her daughters are somewhere in Texas. She cannot find them. She wants to hear from them. And I want to also applaud the firemen and the first responders who risked their own lives to help those in need to leave the center.

Mrs. Bell recounted that the water level in her house came up to her neck. But there are many stories like hers. And one of the things that I have to

bring forward is the fact that FEMA made a promise to give these evacuees assistance.

Now, it is 2 weeks, the assistance is not there. Political hacks have pushed aside the professionals out of FEMA. Since this President took office, 4.1 million people have slipped into poverty. The poor and underserved of the Gulf are the hardest hit. They are the ones that need our help.

Let us move forward and help those that need our assistance now.

RED TAPE AND HURRICANE RELIEF

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, many of us were appalled at the red tape that hindered the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Hundreds of surgeons and paramedics were stranded in a state-of-the-art mobile hospital without patients to treat, prevented by Louisiana State officials from mobilizing their taxpayer-funded hospital closer to the disaster zone. State homeland security officials prevented the Red Cross from trucking in supplies in the immediate aftermath.

Police shut down a key bridge after the hurricane hit, preventing escape by victims of the storm. Churches in Louisiana asked by FEMA to take in victims of the hurricane have received no financial assistance from the agency, because FEMA cannot offer assistance to uncertified faith-based groups.

Survivors sleep on the floors of these churches while FEMA is storing unused cots in Louisiana warehouses. The worst thing that can come from all of these hearings, investigations, and commissions is more red tape of the sort that has slowed current relief efforts and probably cost many, many lives.

HURRICANE KATRINA TRAGEDY

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, many people responded admirably and effectively in New Orleans and throughout the Gulf Coast. But the fact is that a natural disaster was turned into a human travesty because of incompetence, disorganization, and misplaced priorities.

And the answer does not lie in the firing of Michael Brown. It has been apparent to many who have watched what has happened within the Department of Homeland Security that FEMA has been unvalued within this administration, and as a result became a dumping ground for political hacks.

The fact is that 75 percent of FEMA's money has had to go to terrorism-related situations, such as paying overtime for TSA airport screeners, which

means that preparation for the possibility of flooding in New Orleans or an earthquake in San Francisco get very low priority.

In fact, we are not even preparing adequately now for an earthquake in San Francisco when two out of three of FEMA's highest priorities have already occurred with New York and New Orleans.

Mr. Speaker, another natural tragedy cannot be allowed to become another human travesty. We have to get into the guts of this organization, weed out the incompetents and fund it adequately and appropriately.

THANKS TO NASHVILLE ORGANIZATIONS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know some in Washington are choosing to score political points on the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. But out there in real America, real Americans are working to assist those who have been displaced.

I want to thank them for the great work that they are doing. Last week, I thanked our Memphis-area organizations who are helping our Gulf neighbors. Today I want to recognize the following Nashville-area organizations providing shelter. We have the CrieveWood Baptist Church and Tulip Grove Baptist Church and their congregations; Clear View Baptist Church in Williamson County is providing shelter as well as food.

Grace Works Ministries is collecting clothing and hygiene kits, and the Interfaith Dental Clinic is providing acute dental emergency care for free. The Montgomery Bell Academy Service Club has loaded an 18-wheeler full of supplies, and they sent it south to Mississippi.

In Montgomery County, the Hilldale Church of Christ is doing the good work of taking in our neighbors.

I have been in Mississippi to help with the relief efforts, and I applaud the Nation's aid organizations and all of the work the local charities and the outstanding volunteers are giving to our neighbors in need.

IN SUPPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, sometimes numbers paint a dramatic picture. According to a survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, one in five children 10 to 17 years old are recipients of unwanted sexual solicitations online. One of every seven victims of sexual assault is under the age of 6. One in five girls will be sexually exploited before they reach adulthood.