

State has been very hard hit. Thank goodness our capital city of Baton Rouge is standing up very strongly. They have grown from a city of 350,000 to a city of 500,000 over the weekend, 3 months ago. The mayor of that city, "Kip" Holden, has now had to take on an additional 150,000 citizens and is managing very well under the circumstances. Lafayette is in the southwest and is part of Cajun Country. They have probably increased 50,000 or 60,000. New Orleans is my hometown, and it is something we will fight hard to restore. It is representative of the spirit of all of Louisiana.

I will read into the record in closing why this fight is worth having and why we are not going to give up until we get the help, the money, the tools, and the support.

He writes:

New Orleans is not just a list of attractions or restaurants or ceremonies, no matter how sublime and subtle. New Orleans is the interaction among all these things and countless more. It gains its character from the spirit that is summoned, like a hologram, in the midst all these elements, and that comes, ultimately, from the people who live there, and from those whose parents and grandparents and ancestors lived there. That spirit, as much as, or more than, the city's physical and economic infrastructure, is what is in jeopardy right now. In the wake of the worst natural disaster in this country's history, one from which New Orleans, and the rest of the country, will be digging out for years, it may be good to remember what has been

lost, and to think hard about what is worth fighting to save.

I plan to fight with all of my strength and energy and commitment to save this wonderful city, to save south Louisiana, which has given so much, and to fight hard for people who only ever expected their Government to meet them halfway, for this Federal Government to be what it was created to be, which is a help to people in time of need. We are going to be here through Christmas if we have to.

I thank all of my colleagues for their patience and forbearance. Many of them have stepped up beyond the call of duty to help a State they do not even represent. But, of course, as Senators, they know the need of people in times like these.

I look forward to the debate tomorrow.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in adjournment until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:59 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 21, 2005, at 9 a.m.

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NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate December 20, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JAMES I. FINLEY, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY, VICE MICHAEL W. WYNNE.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

STEPHEN GOLDSMITH, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2010. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SHAREE M. FREEMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE, FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT AS A PERMANENT COMMISSIONED REGULAR OFFICER IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 211:

*To be lieutenant commander*

CONNIE M. ROOKE, 4089

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT COMMISSIONED TEACHING STAFF OF THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 188:

*To be lieutenant*

JOSEPH T. BENIN, 6446

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be colonel*

MICHAEL J. OSBURN, 0220

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

MARGARETT E. BARNES, 5587  
DAVID E. UPCHURCH, 2784