

GRATITUDE FOR KATRINA
VOLUNTEERS IN MISSISSIPPI

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the way the American people responded to the loss and suffering wrought by Hurricane Katrina was probably unprecedented and surely unforgettable. We in Mississippi, and our neighbors elsewhere along the gulf coast, will always remember the aid, the labor, the rescues, the prayers—everything our fellow citizens did to bring us through that terrible ordeal.

I wish it were possible to acknowledge every individual who came to assist us when we most needed them, but that honor roll is far too long for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Moreover, their names, I am sure, are inscribed in a more important book, and their lasting reward will be much greater than our praise.

I do want to take note of one particular group of volunteers from the State of North Carolina. On short notice, on September 2, 2005, more than 90 health care professionals left their homes and their jobs to come to Hancock County, where Katrina had left the towns of Waveland and Bay St. Louis in ruins. Because Hancock Regional Hospital was flooded, the Carolina volunteers created a field hospital that operated for 2 months and cared for more than 7,000 patients. During that time, more than 400 doctors, nurses, paramedics, and other health care professionals rotated through the facility, caring for local residents until Hancock Regional Hospital could again admit patients.

These men and women selflessly served the people of Mississippi during one of the worst disasters ever to confront our country. One of them, I should point out, is part of the Senate's extended family. Chris Ogden, an RN, is the daughter of our own Joy Ogden, manager of the Senate's Appointments Desk at the North Door of the Capitol.

To Chris, and to the more than 400 like her who brought hope and comfort to Hancock County, I offer the heartfelt gratitude of all the people of Mississippi.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JIM WILLIAMS

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a tremendous public servant for his good work in leading an important Federal Government program for the past several years. Jim Williams, who currently holds the position of Director of the US-VISIT Program at the Department of Homeland Security, will soon leave this position to become the Commissioner of the Federal Acquisition Service at the General Services Administration.

There's little question that the Department's loss will be the Commission's gain. However, the good news is that one of our most accomplished, capable and experienced federal employees will continue serving his country.

In May 2003, Jim Williams took over as Director of the US-VISIT Program, a critical border-management program that collects point-of-entry and exit information on visitors entering and exiting the United States. The program uses biometric identifiers—digital finger scans and photographs—to make entering the United States easier for legitimate tourists, students, and business travelers, while making it more difficult for those who might do us harm to enter and stay in the United States illegally. Hundreds of thousands of visitors cross the Texas border each year, and the US-VISIT system has improved security without slowing down legal trade and tourism.

Mr. Williams' job was to develop a solid foundation of policies and practices that would guide the program for the foreseeable future. It was a critical moment for the program, and Mr. Williams skillfully seized this opportunity. In a little more than 2 years, Mr. Williams helped develop US-VISIT into a viable program. Mr. Williams built the team that developed and deployed the effort, which today is crucial to our immigration and border-management system.

Under Mr. Williams' leadership, US-VISIT has met its congressional deadlines on time and under budget and has helped establish the foundation of the U.S. Government's 21st century immigration and border-management system.

Jim Williams is a model public servant and leader. He has left a tremendous imprint on the US-VISIT Program and on the many people who work with him at US-VISIT and across the Government. Because of his leadership, US-VISIT has cultivated a talented team that will guide the program in the years ahead. They will continue to help overcome the challenges that face our Nation, and Mr. Williams will continue to provide the American people with the very best of Government service. We wish Mr. Williams well and thank him for his continued service to our country.●

RETIREMENT OF AIR FORCE CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT GERALD R.
MURRAY

• Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray on the occasion of his retirement from the Air Force after 29 years of faithful and selfless service.

Chief Murray grew up in Boiling Springs, NC, and entered the Air Force in October 1977. His background includes various duties in aircraft maintenance, and as a command chief master sergeant at wing, numbered Air Force, and major command levels. He served this great Nation in assignments in the States of Texas, Florida, South Carolina, Washington, Hawaii, Washington, DC, and also served overseas in Turkey, Japan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia in support of operations Desert Storm and Southern Watch.

As the 14th Chief Master Sergeant appointed to the highest noncommis-

sioned officer position, Gerald R. Murray represents the highest enlisted level of leadership within the Air Force. He provided direction for the enlisted corps and represented their interests to the American public and to those in all levels of Government. He served as the personal adviser to the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, and proper utilization and progress of the enlisted force.

Chief Murray served our country with great responsibility, dedication, loyalty, and integrity. I know my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating him on his retirement, and I am proud to publicly commend him on a truly remarkable and distinguished career. I wish him every success in the years to come.●

BILL AND ROSE MARY MOONEY
BROOKS' 60TH WEDDING ANNI-
VERSARY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the 60th anniversary of Bill and Rose Mary Mooney Brooks on July 6, 2006. Their life together truly represents the American ideal. They met when Bill, an Army captain, took a weekend leave, with his fellow officer and best buddy Lewis Mooney. Lew introduced Bill to his younger sister Rose Mary that weekend in Philadelphia. Shortly after the war ended, they were married and Rose Mary and Bill returned to his home State where they made their home in Sioux Falls, SD. There they built a construction business and a family. Quite a family in fact, their first child and only daughter Barbara has shared my life for the last 37 years. Barbara was followed by six sons, Theodore, Robert, Ronald, Raymond, Richard, and Stephen.

During their years together, their business, Brooks Construction, and later Brooks Concrete, was always known for quality work but, most importantly, for integrity. Bill was also a founding officer of the South Dakota Air National Guard where he served until he retired as a lieutenant colonel. Then, as now, guard service required sacrifice. During the Korean war, Bill had to leave his new business and move his young family to Duluth, MN, where, once again, he served his country.

They were active members and leaders in their church where Rose Mary enjoyed singing in the choir. Her Irish sensibilities and intelligence gave her grace and wit in raising the children. They were strong supporters of whatever their seven children chose to participate. Whether it was a starring role on the football team, an all-day wrestling meet, a lead in a musical, or one line in a class play, Bill and Rose Mary were in the stands. Their children will tell you that they were and are wonderful parents.