

Economic Injury Disaster Loans: Although Katrina and Rita directly affected businesses along the Gulf Coast, additional businesses in the region, as well as the rest of the country, were economically impacted by the storms. The SBA must have the ability to provide nationwide, or perhaps regional, economic injury disaster loans to businesses which can demonstrate economic distress or disruption from a future major disaster.

Loss Verification and Loan Processing: Following the Gulf Coast hurricanes, the SBA struggled for months to hire enough staff to inspect losses and process loan applications. Although SBA now has trained reserves to handle such surges in demand, the SBA also needs the permanent authority to enter into agreements with qualified private lenders and credit unions to process Disaster Loans and provide loss verification services.

Administrator Preston, I was impressed by your expressed willingness to be a bridge between Congress and the White House. For the SBA to truly bring its disaster capabilities to the next level, I believe that it must work in concert with the Congress. Together, we must remove layers of bureaucracy and red tape, which, following Katrina and Rita, both overwhelmed and frustrated dedicated SBA employees and those affected by the hurricane must also give the SBA new tools to ensure that problems that occurred post-Katrina and Rita never happen again.

Last month we marked the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and now mark the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Rita. It is essential that we take action now to make substantive reforms to the SBA Disaster Assistance Program. We owe nothing less to our small businesses. I ask that you continue working with my office on this important issue and respond to our approach in writing no later than October 31, 2006. This will help us develop a proposal which can address the concerns of the SBA as well as provide a better and more responsive SBA Disaster Assistance Program for our small businesses.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

MARY L. LANDRIEU,
U.S. Senator.

INDIAN GAMING REGULATORY ACT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I have filed an amendment to S. 2078, the proposed Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Amendments of 2006. The amendment would require the National Indian Gaming Commission, the NIGC, to utilize the well-accepted negotiated rulemaking process in promulgating any regulations required to implement the provisions contained in S. 2078. Let me take a moment to explain the amendment.

Congress adopted the Negotiated Rulemaking Act in 1990. It appears at 5 USC, sections 561 and following. Congress permanently reauthorized the act in 1996. It provides an alternative to adversarial rulemaking. It saves time and reduces litigation.

The Negotiated Rulemaking Act allows interested stakeholders and the Federal agency to be a part of the process. Negotiated rulemaking is a process by which tribes and Government agencies enter into negotiations in good faith and reach consensus on proposed rules. All the legal requirements of notice, such as publication in the Federal

Register, are employed. A negotiated rulemaking committee is employed. Thus there is transparency and accountability. If the negotiated rulemaking succeeds, it culminates in proposed rules that the Federal agency formally proposes. The Federal agency retains the ultimate authority, however, on any such proposed rule, as the agency retains responsibility in making final decisions and publishing the rule in the Federal Register.

A variety of Federal agencies have successfully used the Negotiated Rulemaking Act in developing regulations. Among them are the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Park Service, the Department of Transportation, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the United States Forest Service.

As well, Federal agencies that have worked directly with Indian country have successfully used the negotiated rulemaking process. Among those are the Indian Health Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development when HUD developed the regulations under the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act.

Some argue that it is not appropriate to require the NIGC to bring in tribes as a part of the negotiated rulemaking process because they are the entity being regulated. But we are dealing with sovereign Indian Nations that already have significant regulatory regimes in effect. The original Indian Gaming Regulatory Act already was a major intrusion into the status of tribes as units of government fully capable of managing their own affairs. To suggest that it is somehow problematic for tribal governments to have an institutionalized role in developing regulations is totally contrary to the very concept of our government-to-government relationship with tribes. That is a philosophy subscribed to by the chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee on many occasions.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I have been asked by a Capitol employee, Mr. Albert Cary Caswell, to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a poem he wrote in memory of the late, great Minnesota Senator, Paul Wellstone.

Senator Wellstone was my friend of 22 years and Minnesota's senior Senator and my mentor during my first 2 years here. I have missed his conscience, his courage, and his eloquence in the Senate every day since his tragic death in an airplane crash nearly 4 years ago.

There being no objection, the poem was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WALKING WITH GIANTS

(By Albert Cary Caswell)

We who here, who have walked upon life's road . . .
A question asked, "What of the full measure of one's footprints cast . . . as to this our world as bestowed?"
Are ours but just mere footprints, or with giant gaits have we here now strode? As all within these our short lifetimes shows!
Do we walk with giants, or but there with just mere men?
Do we dare to grow, do we dare to be great . . . as time and time again? As these our lifetimes begin!
Will we become giants, or will we forever more remain but just mere men? As in this, our shortest of times our lives as then . . .
Shine!
For in our lives and in our times, will we fade or will we shine?
Are we that bright beacon of light and hope which so brilliantly shines? That bright beam of light which so flows through time!
One Paul Wellstone, whose title as a giant as now so belongs!
For in his life and in his deeds, for in this his courageous quest to succeed. . . his bright legend as a giant so lives on . . .
A small man of girth, but within his great heart and his soul . . . and all within his mind, so lies his true worth as he has gone!
For from this his most humble of beginnings, as had he so come!
As to a professor, who with his great burning passion so taught our future . . . had so led our young!
Until, on a little green school bus. . . his dreams were so to be cast! As well into a future where his greatness was to be so sung!
A man, who among his classrooms would so spread his dreams . . .
Talking of all those giants, who so upon a Senate floor as throughout the decades had convened . . .
As one day too, Paul . . . would also walk upon those most hallowed of all halls . . . where too, his greatness would be seen!
Walking with giants. . . such as Dole, Glenn, Thurmond, Byrd, Simpson, Inouye and Kennedy . . .
A proud Liberal . . . a man of great passion . . . for in him we were all but "Left With The Best" oh so very splendidly!
A Great American Patriot . . . a most courageous candidate . . . a Great Crusader and A True Fine Champion of Democracy!
A man with a huge heart,
A man with such a warm smile, which so placed him high above all the others . . . while, setting him apart!
A fighter and a champion . . . a true winner among just mere men . . . the little guy's best friend . . . a true fine work of art!
In this the arena of life . . . he was but a sheer delight!
A Great Father . . . A Great Husband . . . A Wonderful Human Being . . . who to all so brought his light!
For the steps that he made, clearly so portrays the stuff of which giants are made . . . as we so ponder here this night!
An American Tale . . . as was his, The True Great American Dream . . .

So happy and so blessed, as he stood so boldly debating near Webster's desk. . . . as ever so he was seen!

Like a modern day Webster, Clay, or Calhoun he too, made history's heart so swoon . . . where, and whenever he convened!

For within his life and within his times, there are but so many great truths about him of which we find,

As he's left us with such great lessons, with such bright lights . . . to touch all of our children's hearts and minds!

All about being warm and kind, all about passion within hearts & within strong minds, and that no mountain cannot be climbed!

As he was a shining voice!

As he was a Liberal's Liberal, as he was truly his people's choice!

A battler no doubt, while reaching out. . . . ever speaking out. . . . for all of those others, who so surely had no voice!

If only but as Paul. . . . we too. . . . in our lives. . . . and our times. . . . could all so live . . .

Oh what great gifts we could shine, to these our children and this our world in our time, Oh such warm blessings we would give!

For in this our lives and in these our times, will we such the courage find, To Walk With Giants, touching the lives of all who live!

In Memory of a great American Patriot—Paul Wellstone—his wife Sheila, and his precious daughter Marcia, and all those aboard the plane. May our Lord bless the families and help them to find peace. (This was read in Minnesota, on television for his memorial.)

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING STAFF OF PENROSE-ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to those individuals from Penrose-St. Francis Hospital in Colorado Springs, CO, who graciously agreed to provide medical attention to retired Air Force veteran Mr. Richard Mc Whorter following a critical injury in April, 2006, while working in Amman, Jordan.

The staff of Penrose-St. Francis worked quickly and tirelessly to arrange for the appropriate procedures in order to best help Mr. Mc Whorter given the urgency and unfortunate extenuating circumstances. Most notably, Penrose-St. Francis was willing to absorb all costs for any treatment performed. Tragically, Mr. Mc Whorter passed away prior to his return to the United States for treatment.

Nonetheless, the honorable intentions of those at Penrose-St. Francis are worthy of acknowledgment and their demonstration of compassion should serve as an example for others in the health care industry.

I would like to thank the following individuals for their kindness and generosity in attempting to save Mr. Mc Whorter following his accident. I would also like to issue my sincere condolences to the Mc Whorter family for their loss.

Dr. Dave Ross
Dr. Roger Nagy
Dr. Bill Chambers

Dr. Michael Brown
Dr. Glen House
President and CEO Rick O'Connell
Ms. Pat Burgess●

RECOGNIZING JNO S SOLENBERGER & CO.

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to acknowledge Jno S Solenberger & Co., Inc. of Winchester, VA, for over 100 years of service. Throughout the years, the success of Jno S Solenberger & Co., Inc has been based on the belief of providing excellent customer service.

When the hardware store first opened over a century ago, its founders, John S. Solenberger and his cousin Daniel Stouffer, worked tirelessly to build a company known for its quality products and excellent customer service. Four generations later, John T. Solenberger, Jr., the current president of the company, still upholds the original vision of his great-grandfather, contributing in his own way toward the company growing success through numerous expansions and renovations.

Solenberger many contributions to Winchester rich historical heritage, including his commitment to serving his customers with the utmost care and expertise, are significant accomplishments. I am proud to stand before you today and recognize Jno S Solenberger & Co., Inc. as a fine exemplar to the business community of Virginia.●

RECOGNIZING BANK OF CLARKE COUNTY

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of Bank of Clarke County, the first independent, privately owned bank in Berryville, VA. More than a century ago, 10 local investors decided that a community bank would assist in the continued recovery from the Civil War's reconstruction efforts. After pooling together \$10,000 in capital, the Bank of Clarke County was formed. As the oldest continuously operating bank in the area, Bank of Clarke County has remained committed to serving the local communities and its citizens. Its success today can be attributed to its long-term vision and dedicated staff.

Over the years, Bank of Clarke has undergone numerous expansions and renovations, permanently moving to the greater Winchester area in 1992 and opening 10 full-service branch locations, one express branch, and a network of 23 local ATMs. Despite their continual expansion and growth as a business, Bank of Clarke County remains dedicated to serving the community through volunteer work with over 150 local organizations.

The Bank of Clarke County continues to perform outstanding work in serving its local citizens and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. I congratulate its members on their continued run of success, and thank them for the work they are doing to make Virginia a better place to live, work, and raise a family.●

RECOGNIZING THE SHOCKEY COMPANIES

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to acknowledge the Shockey Companies for over 100 years of service. When the company began in 1896, its founder, Mr. Howard Shockey, developed a reputation in Winchester, VA, for his superior craftsmanship and hard working attitude. Today, more than three generations later, the Shockey Companies have remained true to their commitment to serve the Winchester and mid-Atlantic region with the craftsmanship, quality, and old-fashioned values that the company was first built upon.

Over the past three generations, the Shockey Companies expanded even further, working on transportation projects for interstate bridges and interchanges on the highways of Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Their early adoption of improved concrete methods and materials was instrumental in the company efforts to save time and reduce costs.

Their continual commitment to provide Virginians with the highest level of expertise and technology speaks to the company integrity and consistent standard of excellence. On behalf of the many Virginian families and communities who have benefited from the Shockey Companies services over the last century, I would like to express my sincere appreciation.●

RECOGNIZING WINCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to acknowledge Winchester Medical Center for over 100 years of service. Over the past century, Winchester Medical Center has worked tirelessly to build a hospital committed to providing extensive and sophisticated medical services using the most advanced technology and science. Its success today can be attributed to its long-term vision and dedicated staff, which both the local community of Winchester and I are immensely proud of.

In 1903 the Winchester Medical Center had just 35 beds, four employees, and one patient. Since then, it has evolved into one of the premier regional medical centers in the United States, now boasting 405 beds, 2,483 full-time employees, a team of devoted volunteers who worked 76,000 hours last year alone, and numerous renovations. The center specializes in heart care and open heart surgery, cancer care, orthopedic surgery, 24-hour emergency services, including a helipad and neonatal intensive care transport, neurosciences, rehabilitation services, behavioral health, and women and children services. With such a highly qualified staff, it is no surprise that patients