

citizens, in addition to all of the hardworking union men and women in America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

CONTINUING FUNDING FOR GULF
COAST KATRINA RELIEF RECOVERY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, our Nation's responsibility to the people of the gulf coast has not ended since Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast region 2 years ago. Since then, volunteers, first responders, and officials from across the Nation have boldly confronted the challenges of rebuilding damaged areas by dedicating their time and effort to help restore these vibrant communities. However, the challenges the region continues to face are far from over and it is clear that this administration has fallen dramatically short of fulfilling the promises made to the people of the gulf coast.

Two years ago, despite multiple warnings of Katrina's severity and the approaching devastation that would result if residents of the gulf coast were not evacuated, the ill-prepared Bush administration failed to offer the necessary support to the hundreds of thousands of people in the storm's path. Vulnerable populations without the economic means or available transportation to evacuate were left with no choice but to weather the storm in their homes or shelters. After the storm ended, at least 1,800 people lost their lives in five States; more than 1 million people were displaced from their homes; hundreds of thousands of homes, schools, and businesses were destroyed; and countless communities and habitats were uprooted.

Despite the outpouring of congressional support for reconstruction and disaster assistance, the administration has poorly managed the disbursement of funds and failed to ensure that home and business owners receive the aid they need. Of the \$94.8 billion that Congress appropriated in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, almost half has been spent by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on debris removal and temporary housing assistance. Only \$3.4 billion has been spent on permanent infrastructure repairs, and FEMA's consistent underestimation of the necessary costs associated with permanent rebuilding has resulted in billions of dollars of aid being tied up after costs exceed FEMA's initial estimates. As a result of the inadequate management and inefficient use of funds, thousands of residents have not returned to their homes. According to the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, 107,000 gulf residents displaced by Katrina are still in FEMA-provided temporary housing.

The administration could have chosen to overcome its original failure with a concerted commitment to rebuild the gulf coast and ensure that the victims of this disaster receive the assistance they need. Instead, over the last 2 years, they have chosen to ignore these problems and the needs of the gulf coast residents. The administration's continued indiffer-

ence to the devastation caused by Katrina has prevented these residents from rebuilding to their communities and tackling the lingering poverty in the region. This administration's failures have been compounded with time, continuing to postpone the complete restoration of the gulf coast.

Madam Speaker, today, we must recommit ourselves, at all levels of government, to rebuild the gulf coast in a responsible and comprehensive way. As we honor those who lost their lives during Hurricane Katrina, we cannot allow this important work to be pushed to side any longer.

HONORING GEORGE BURROWS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Burrows, Sr. whose hard work and determination have resulted in the revitalization of the Sistrunk Boulevard corridor in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This once-blighted neighborhood is now the pride of Ft. Lauderdale's African-American community.

Born in 1926, George Burrows grew up in the segregated Jim Crow south. He was one of 14 children raised by his Bahamian immigrant parents. After serving in the Marines during World War II, George returned to Ft. Lauderdale. Using the G.I. Bill, he attended Bethune-Cookman College where, after sampling several vocational courses, he decided to study electronics. In 1948, he earned his Associate of Arts degree in electronics, and soon after received his state certification as a licensed master electrician.

Madam Speaker, with only electrical wire, government-issued tools, and a used bicycle with front and rear baskets, George Burrows embarked on a career that has spanned more than five decades. He fought bravely against a segregated system that limited his services to Colored Town and went on to great success in the electrical business. The day before his alma mater Dillard High School was to play an important football game, its field still had no lights. George Burrows came to the rescue, installing lights on the field and saving the day.

One of his proudest accomplishments is his longtime involvement with the Black Chamber of Commerce, formerly the Negro Chamber of Commerce. George's work with the Chamber led to minority businesses obtaining contracts with the Hollywood-Ft. Lauderdale International Airport and Port Everglades. George and his devoted wife of more than 50 years, Agnes, have raised four children, all of whom are graduates of historically black colleges. One admirer of his business, Burrows Electric, recently called him "number one in the business" and "a consummate professional."

Madam Speaker, even Ft. Lauderdale City Commissioner Carlton Moore, who grew up in the Sistrunk Boulevard district, lauded George Burrows' achievement as a role model in the community. Commissioner Moore has noted that George "created a business that provided business opportunities to those who were locked out by the system." George Burrows' advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is to "get an

education." With an education, he says, "one can do anything they want in the field they choose." George Burrows is living proof of that. We all owe this great man an enormous debt of gratitude for what he has done to make his neighborhood, his city, and our world a better place. He is truly someone of whom we can all be very proud.

CONGRATULATING MS. KELSEY
HOWE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kelsey Howe of Highlands Ranch, CO, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. Her outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young woman.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Ms. Howe to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Howe and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

OWEN LOVEJOY PRINCETON POST
OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2825, designating the post office at 326 South Main Street in Princeton, IL as the Owen Lovejoy Princeton Post Office Building.

Owen Lovejoy, born in Albion, ME, and known for his passionate public service, fought for years for the abolition of slavery. At the root of this passion was the memory of his brother Elijah, Presbyterian minister and editor of an abolitionist press. Elijah was murdered by a mob angered by his anti-slavery writings.

Owen Lovejoy sought an end to slavery, opening his home to runaway slaves, seeking political office in order to push for change, and serving in the Union Army during the American Civil War. An acquaintance of Abraham Lincoln, Lovejoy served as a platform speaker in support of Lincoln in his famous debates with Stephen Douglas.

Our country owes much to individuals like Owen Lovejoy, who, believing in his heart that "all men are created equal," sought an end to