

HONORING STEVE PALMER,
OWNER OF PALMER PLACE RESTAURANT ON WINNING THE RESTAURANT NEIGHBOR AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Palmer, owner of Palmer Place Restaurant and winner of the National Restaurant Association Restaurant Neighbor Award.

The Restaurant Neighbor Award is a component of the Association's Cornerstone initiative, a comprehensive effort to advance and promote the restaurant industry's role as the cornerstone of community involvement, the cornerstone of career and employment opportunities and the cornerstone of economy.

This year's small business winner is Palmer Place. Creating a foundation sounds like a daunting task only achieved by huge corporations with lots of money to give away. But Small Business Winner Palmer Place Restaurant and its H Foundation is living proof that smaller restaurants can achieve big things in community outreach.

After a close friend and colleague died of cancer, Palmer Place owner Steve Palmer wanted to organize a fundraiser to raise money for cancer research. Palmer teamed up with local business owners John Rot and David Rizner to create the H Foundation where 100 percent of the money raised would go toward finding a cure for cancer.

The H Foundation aims to support innovative, forward-thinking cancer research. In 2003, the foundation donated \$170,000 to the Lurie center, from which researchers generated \$1.5 million in grants. Additionally part of the \$200,000 the H Foundation donated was used to create a program called Families After Cancer.

It is my honor to recognize Steve Palmer of Palmer Place Restaurant for his many achievements both within and outside of the business community, fostering the growth of a community as well as helping to create change and promote progress in cancer research.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (H.R. 3645) and of the decision to call this special session to send resources to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama quickly.

The thoughts and prayers of all Americans go out to the citizens of the states and communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The

entire country has watched the images of the destruction caused by this natural disaster with shock and sadness. Those who have lost loved ones, their homes and their communities must receive immediate aid and the legislation we are passing today will start that process.

As we respond to the immediate needs of the families displaced by this tragic natural disaster, the citizens of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama also have my commitment that I will work with you to rebuild New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf Coast. The impacts of this disaster on families, communities, the economy, and the environment will be long lasting. It will take resolve and commitment to ensure that we complete this enormous task.

The American spirit and the generosity of our citizens will be there for the victims of this tragedy. The first responder in this effort, however, must be the federal government—both for immediate needs and for long term rebuilding. Today is a critical first step in that effort and I am pleased to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST TOCCARA RENEE GREEN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Specialist Toccara Renee Green.

Toccara Green served in the Army's 57th Transportation Company, 584th Corps Support Battalion, headquartered at Fort Drum, NY. A talented and dedicated soldier, Specialist Green began her commitment to the U.S. Armed Forces at an early age. While a student at Forest Park Senior High School, Specialist Green spent four years in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, where she was promoted to executive officer.

After her first year at Norfolk State University, Specialist Green decided to expedite her dream of serving in the Armed forces and enlisted in the Army. She served for nine months in Kuwait before beginning her first tour of Iraq as a motor and transport operator. Specialist Green was four months from completion of her second tour of Iraq when she was killed by a roadside bomb that detonated near her convoy in Al Asad on August 14, 2005.

Through her honor and service, Specialist Green dedicated her life to fighting for liberty so that others might taste the freedom that democracy brings. It is these ideals that America most cherishes, and that Specialist Green herself advanced.

Specialist Green's determination, enthusiasm, and ability to inspire others will be remembered by all who were privileged to know her. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Specialist Green and the incredible sacrifice she made for her country.

SECOND KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bills today to be taken up under sus-

pension of the rules. However, I strongly oppose taking up H.R. 3673, the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, which includes \$51.8 billion for the relief effort, including \$50 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under suspension. Doing so limits the opportunity for debate and amendments at a time when many legitimate questions are being raised about FEMA. We surely can spend some time debating these issues and offering amendments to make sure that FEMA spends this money properly.

Based on the performance so far, I have no confidence that either FEMA, or its director, Mr. Michael Brown, can manage the funds Congress is appropriating. Mr. Brown had no experience in disaster management prior to being appointed director of FEMA, and that lack of experience has shown all too clearly. Mr. Brown waited for hours after Hurricane Katrina hit the United States to issue a department-wide call for help from the Department of Homeland Security. According to Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, FEMA also prevented the Coast Guard from providing fuel to local emergency personnel and turned back trucks filled with drinking water for victims. Neither FEMA nor any other federal agency appeared to be in charge as lawlessness broke out in New Orleans. Three days later, on Thursday, September 1, Director Brown said that federal officials had just learned that people had taken refuge in the New Orleans Convention Center. This was despite numerous previous news reports showing Americans gathering there. These are just a few examples of the delayed and badly conceived response to this disaster.

Many of these problems stem from the incompetence of FEMA management or perhaps its position in the enormous Department of Homeland Security, which is the amalgamation of 22 federal agencies. FEMA is no longer a cabinet-level agency, reporting directly to the President, as it was under President Clinton. People have raised questions whether this change, and FEMA's move into the Department of Homeland Security with a focus on dealing with terrorist events, have made it less able to help Americans deal with and recover from natural disasters. With the situation ongoing and FEMA to be heavily involved for months to come as the Gulf region recovers, we need to get the answers to these questions now. We cannot do that when the majority shuts off debate and prevents amendments.

Furthermore, I am concerned about providing FEMA more money, \$50 billion, at a time when many Americans, including myself, have lost confidence in its ability to manage this crisis. How can we have faith that this money will not be wasted, based on FEMA's performance to date? Particularly now, with a budget deficit of over \$300 billion, we cannot afford to waste any of our resources. In this time of need, we must come together as Americans and spend whatever is necessary to help our citizens rebuild. But, quickly appropriating money without accountability will not solve the problems of the Gulf region, if that money is not going to be well-spent. Instead of ramming this money through without discussion, we should be talking about how we can ensure FEMA uses this money in the best way