

the ability to harness electricity for useful purposes was in its infancy. Since then, electrical power has become central to our way of life, and technologies based on electronics have become ubiquitous. The AIEE evolved to reflect these changes, first by joining with the Institute of Radio Engineers to become the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and later by shortening the organization's official name to IEEE in recognition of the fact that technical fields were transcending traditional definitions and boundaries. Still, the overarching goal of the organization—to apply technology and innovation for the benefit of humanity—has remained constant from the beginning. IEEE has become a global professional organization with 375,000 members in 160 countries. It sponsors hundreds of conferences and professional meetings annually, maintains an electronic library of technical publications, develops international technical standards, hosts educational and professional development programs, and provides a forum for professional interactions and collaborations. As we look to the future, we will rely increasingly on science, engineering, and technology to help us meet our energy challenges, safeguard our environment, grow our economy, and improve our quality of life. I hope that IEEE's Engineering the Future Day will raise awareness about how science and technology affects our daily lives and about the many opportunities available to technical professionals. I congratulate IEEE and its members on the organization's 125th anniversary and past achievements, and I look forward to all of its future contributions.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 413.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 387) supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 387

Whereas the Atlantic and central Pacific hurricane season begins June 1, 2009, and ends November 30, 2009, and the eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15, 2009, through November 30, 2009;

Whereas an average of 11 tropical storms develop per year over the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico, and an average of 6 of these storms become hurricanes;

Whereas in an average 3-year period, roughly 5 hurricanes strike the coastlines of the United States, sometimes resulting in multiple deaths, and 2 of these hurricanes are typically labeled "major" or "intense" category 3 hurricanes, as measured on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale;

Whereas millions of Americans face great risks from tropical storms and hurricanes, as 50 percent of Americans live along the coast and millions of tourists visit the oceans each year;

Whereas the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season included 16 named storms, including 8 hurricanes, 5 of which were category 3 or higher;

Whereas during a hurricane, homes, businesses, public buildings, and infrastructure may be damaged or destroyed by heavy rain, strong winds, and storm surge;

Whereas damage from a hurricane is usually substantial, as debris can break windows and doors, roads and bridges can be washed away, homes can be flooded, and destructive tornadoes can occur well away from the storm's center;

Whereas experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center and the National Weather Service agree that it is critical for all people to know if they live in an area prone to hurricanes, to figure out their home's vulnerability in the event of a storm surge, flooding, and heavy winds, and to develop a written family disaster plan based on this knowledge;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in areas prone to hurricanes prepare a personal evacuation plan that identifies ahead of time several options of places to go in the event of evacuation, the telephone numbers of these places, and a local road map;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in areas prone to hurricanes prepare a disaster supply kit before hurricane season begins that includes a first aid kit with essential medications, canned food, a can opener, at least 3 gallons of water per person per day for 3 to 7 days, protective clothing, rain gear, bedding or sleeping bags, a battery-powered radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members, and written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water in the event authorities advise these actions;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center recommends that citizens know that a "hurricane watch" means conditions are possible in the specified area, usually within 36 hours, and a "hurricane warning" means hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area, usually within 24 hours;

Whereas in the event of a hurricane warning, the National Hurricane Center recommends people listen to the advice of local officials, evacuate if told to do so, complete preparedness activities, stay indoors and away from windows, be alert for tornadoes, and be aware that the calm "eye" of the storm does not mean the storm is over;

Whereas in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, inland flooding was responsible for more than half the deaths associated with tropical storms and hurricanes in the United States;

Whereas the National Weather Service recommends that when a hurricane threatens the United States, people in potential flood zones evacuate if told to do so, keep abreast of road conditions through the news media, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water, develop a flood emergency action plan, and do not attempt to cross

flowing water in an automobile, because as little as 6 inches of water may cause one to lose control of the vehicle;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides more detailed information about hurricanes and hurricane preparedness via its website, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/>; and

Whereas National Hurricane Preparedness Week will be the week of May 24 through 30, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week;

(2) encourages the staff of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, especially the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to continue their outstanding work of educating people in the United States about hurricane preparedness; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to recognize such a week as an opportunity to learn more about the work of the National Hurricane Center in forecasting hurricanes and educating citizens about the potential risks of the storms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 387, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on June 1, hurricane season begins in the Atlantic Ocean. Noted hurricane forecasters at Colorado State University have predicted an above-average year for tropical storms and hurricanes for 2009. It is, therefore, very timely to consider this resolution recognizing the importance of Hurricane Preparedness Week. As the tragedy of Katrina in 2005 showed us, it is not just the strength of the storm that determines the destruction on the ground. Just as important is the preparedness of the communities that are impacted.

Katrina took almost 1,500 lives and caused damages totaling \$81 billion. It was the one of the costliest natural disasters in the Nation's history. However, Katrina, a category 3 storm at landfall, was not an especially powerful storm. In fact, there were three other category 3 storms that struck the U.S. in 2005, but none of them caused the same level of damage and destruction.

This is a sobering lesson in the importance of hurricane preparedness. It is vitally important that Federal, State and local governments work together to better prepare the coastal

communities for these powerful storms. And I want to thank my friend from Florida who has firsthand knowledge of these problems, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for introducing this important resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support it. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, before I talk about this issue, I would like to thank Chairman GORDON, once again, and also Ranking Member HALL and also their staffs for allowing this timely resolution to move forward so quickly. As the chairman has just said, the time is right for this resolution once again.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 387, which is to support the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week as established by the National Hurricane Center. Hurricane Preparedness Week begins on the 24th of May and lasts through the 30th of May of 2009. Now, in less than 2 weeks, Madam Speaker, on the 1st of June, unfortunately, we mark the beginning of yet another hurricane season in the Atlantic and central Pacific Oceans. Hurricane season lasts a long, long 6 months until November 30.

The goal of Hurricane Preparedness Week is to inform the public about hurricanes, their hazards, and to provide knowledge that, frankly, we can use and that hopefully all of us can use to take action now, to be ready now before the hurricanes hit. We must be ready. This information can be used to save property and, most importantly, it can be used to save lives. As the chairman himself said, we have to often seen what these storms can do.

Now, although the Federal Government plays a critical role before and after a storm, we have to do our part. We have to be ready ourselves. And it is the hope that the residents, particularly in areas that are hurricane prone, will prepare themselves and their families for this before this hurricane season starts.

History teaches us that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are, unfortunately, common threads among all hurricanes and major disasters. For instance, one of the biggest lessons learned from the recent wave of hurricanes is that the residents need to have enough supplies to take care of themselves and their families for at least 3 days after one of these storms makes landfall. Oftentimes, local governments are trying to keep order. They are trying to take care of really basic essentials right after a storm, so, therefore, it is important that each and every one of us have a plan, that we prepare and that we can be self-sufficient for those 3 days. Again, millions of Americans face great risk from tropical storms and hurricanes. More than 50 percent of all Americans live along the coast, which again just shows you how grave that risk can be.

Now, the statistics associated with hurricanes are staggering. An average

of 11 tropical storms develop each year over the Atlantic Ocean or the Caribbean or the Gulf of Mexico. Six of these storms will, unfortunately, become hurricanes. Now, look, we just hope that they don't make landfall, and they can just slide by, and we can just kiss them goodbye. But we can't be sure that will happen, so we have to be ready.

Last year, unfortunately, several storms made landfall along the eastern and gulf coast, including Tropical Storm Fay, Hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike. And as we have learned in the past few years, hurricanes pose, again, a serious, serious threat to our country. These massive storms can result in casualties and millions of dollars or, frankly, billions of dollars in economic damage and destruction.

During a hurricane, homes and businesses and other buildings can be damaged by heavy rain, by strong winds and by storm surge, which is one of the worst problems and a real killer. Tornadoes can strike after these storms or during the storms, and oftentimes power can be wiped out for days, if not weeks.

Experts at the NOAA's National Hurricane Center agree that there are some critical things that have to be done. Obviously, first, is to determine if you live in a hurricane-prone area, then know your home's vulnerabilities to either storm surge or flooding or wind and develop a written, a real family disaster plan based on this knowledge. And make sure that everybody in the family knows how to make that plan work and knows about it.

Once you determine, again, how vulnerable you really are to a hurricane, the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in hurricane-prone areas assemble a disaster supply kit before the hurricane season, not before a storm comes, but now before the hurricane season is even upon us; a first aid kit and essential medications, nonperishable food items such as canned goods, at least 3 gallons of water per person per day, again for at least 3 to 7 days, at least 3 days, preferably more; obviously, a battery-powered radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, special items including medications if you need them for infants, for the elderly or for disabled family members, and also making sure that you take care of pets, as well.

As we have learned in south Florida, the forecasters, the meteorologists and the hurricane specialists at National Hurricane Center who become, frankly, every year, heroes to all of us who are in hurricane-prone areas are often the source of the most valuable information on hurricane preparedness. They spend countless hours and days providing valuable information and warnings to all those Americans located in a potential path of a hurricane. Millions of Americans have come to rely on their steady advice and counsel, on their skill, and we thank them for their vital services.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Americans living in hurricane-prone areas to use this Hurricane Preparedness Week as an opportunity to learn more about the approaching hurricane season, to prepare before—before, I repeat—a storm threatens.

Once again, I need to thank the chairman for allowing this resolution to come here quickly, timely. It is important, and I want to thank him for his cooperation, as well as the ranking member and both staffs.

And with that, I do not think I have another speaker. I yield back the remaining part of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I want to again thank Mr. DIAZ-BALART for introducing this legislation. He understands this in a very personal way. This resolution can help save lives.

I urge adoption of the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 387.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2020) to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2020

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. PROGRAM PLANNING AND COORDINATION.

(a) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—Section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—The agencies identified in subsection (a)(3)(B) shall—

“(1) periodically assess the contents and funding levels of the Program Component Areas and restructure the Program when warranted, taking into consideration any relevant recommendations of the advisory committee established under subsection (b); and

“(2) ensure that the Program includes large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development activities, including activities described in section 104.”.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—Section 101 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended further by adding after subsection (d), as added