

Parker and the Rapid City United Way in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, S.D. to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, S.D. was completely underwater when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks, N.D. and 10,000 residents of East Grand Forks, MN were forced to leave their homes and businesses as the Red River overwhelmed their cities in April. The devastation was astounding; an entire city underwater and a fire that gutted a majority of Grand Forks' downtown. Residents of both cities recently were allowed to return to what is left of their homes, and the long and difficult process of rebuilding shattered lives is just beginning.

Renee Parker organized a United Way Jeans Day promotion that continues to amass monetary funds for flood victims. Many families escaped rising flood waters in the dead of night, often with only the clothes on their back, and ultimately lost everything in their homes. I am pleased to say the Jeans Day promotion has collected over \$6,350 to help buy goods for these families. Renee Parker has also been instrumental in organizing the Jeans Day promotion for flood victims on a national basis.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness firsthand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of people like Renee Parker and organizations like the Rapid City United Way illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. Renee Parker and the Rapid City United Way illustrate how individuals can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

RECOGNITION OF BUTLER MACHINERY'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of individuals at Butler Machinery in Rapid City, SD, in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD, to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for three weeks. The city of Bruce, SD, was completely underwater when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks, ND, and 10,000 residents of East Grand Forks, MN, were forced to leave their homes and businesses as the Red River overwhelmed their cities in April. The devastation was astounding; an entire city underwater and a fire that gutted a majority of Grand Forks' downtown. Residents of both cities recently were allowed to return to what is left of their homes, and the long and difficult process of rebuilding shattered lives is just beginning.

Butler Machinery offered free transportation of flood relief items, including food, clothing, bottled water, and toys to Grand Forks. Many families escaped rising flood waters in the dead of night, often with only the clothes on their back, and ultimately lost everything in their homes. I am pleased to say that Butler Machinery has transported over 30 truckloads of items so far to Grand Forks, helping families rebuild their lives. In addition, Butler Machinery has raised nearly \$500,000 in donations for flood victims.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness first-hand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of the individuals at Butler Machinery illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. The individuals at Butler Machinery in Rapid City illustrate how the actions of a community can bring

some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

RECOGNITION OF CHUCK TINANT'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of Chuck Tinant in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD, to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for three weeks. The city of Bruce, SD, was completely underwater when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

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As chairman of the Dakota Disaster Relief Fund, Chuck Tinant has been spearheading volunteer efforts on behalf of the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce. Through Chuck's coordination, the relief fund has raised over \$78,000 for flood victims. In addition, Chuck helped organize efforts by students from area high schools and elementary schools, local businesses, and concerned individuals to collect and ship cleaning supplies, toys, furniture, school books, and food items to Grand Forks.

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