

many years, it was represented by Dan Ros-tenkowski. It is not a district in which Jesse Jackson and Jesse Jackson Jr. are exactly popular.

"Us relating to Rod and Rod relating to us is something taboo," Rep. Jackson explains, noting that although he and Blagojevich and their wives have grown close personally, he understands that the North Side member takes flak for the association.

"You being part of that Jackson thing is really going to cost you your career," says Jackson Jr., imitating his friend's critics. "But after this trip, he is now officially an honorary South Sider. Apparently, it was a great growing experience for both him and Reverend Jackson."

After his 15 minutes of fame at Jackson's side, Blagojevich's only question is this: "When do I take my seat on the back bench again?"

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I will vote for this resolution because I share in the happiness and relief that the families of Sergeant Ramirez, Sergeant Stone, and Specialist Gonzales, and all Americans feel now that these fine young men have been released from captivity. We are all thankful that they are home, safe from harm.

I do not believe, however, that private diplomacy that is at odds with our country's objectives in this war and public relations stunts by Mr. Milosevic deserve our praise. I cannot commend the participation of any American in his propaganda.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-LARD). Under the previous order, lead-ership time is reserved.

COMMENDATION OF THE EFFORTS OF THE REVEREND JESSE JACK-SON

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to vote on adoption of S. Res. 94, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 94) commending the efforts of the Reverend Jesse Jackson to secure the release of the soldiers held by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FITZGERALD (when his name was called). Present.

Mr. HELMS (when his name was called). Present.

Mr. SESSIONS (when his name was called). Present.

Mr. THOMAS (when his name was called). Present.

Mr. WARNER (when his name was called). Present.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Sen-ator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) are necessarily absent.

I also announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) is ab-sent attending a funeral.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) would vote "aye."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 99 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Abraham	Edwards	Lott
Akaka	Enzi	Lugar
Allard	Feingold	Mack
Ashcroft	Feinstein	McCain
Baucus	Frist	McConnell
Bayh	Gorton	Mikulski
Bennett	Graham	Murkowski
Biden	Gramm	Murray
Bingaman	Grassley	Nickles
Bond	Gregg	Reed
Boxer	Hagel	Reid
Breaux	Harkin	Robb
Brownback	Hatch	Roberts
Bryan	Hollings	Rockefeller
Bunning	Hutchinson	Roth
Burns	Hutchison	Santorum
Byrd	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Campbell	Inouye	Schumer
Chafee	Jeffords	Shelby
Cleland	Johnson	Smith (NH)
Cochran	Kennedy	Smith (OR)
Collins	Kerry	Snowe
Conrad	Kerry	Specter
Coverdell	Kohl	Stevens
Craig	Kyl	Thompson
Crapo	Lautenberg	Thurmond
Daschle	Leahy	Torricelli
DeWine	Levin	Voinovich
Dodd	Lieberman	Wellstone
Domenici	Lincoln	Wyden
Durbin		

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—5

Fitzgerald	Sessions	Warner
Helms	Thomas	

NOT VOTING—3

Dorgan	Landrieu	Moynihan
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The resolution (S. Res. 94) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 94

Whereas on March 31, 1999, Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Ramirez, Staff Sergeant Christopher J. Stone, and Specialist Steven M. Gonzales were taken prisoner by the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia while on patrol along the Macedonia-Yugoslav border;

Whereas Sergeant Ramirez, Sergeant Stone, and Specialist Gonzales conducted themselves throughout their ordeal with dig-nity, patriotism, and faith;

Whereas the Reverend Jesse Jackson led a delegation of religious leaders to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that succeeded in ne-gotiating the release of Sergeant Ramirez, Sergeant Stone, and Specialist Gonzales; and

Whereas the Reverend Jesse Jackson has previously succeeded in securing the release of hostages held in Syria, Cuba, and Iraq; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate commends the Reverend Jesse Jackson for his successful efforts in se-curing the release of Sergeant Ramirez, Ser-geant Stone, and Specialist Gonzales, and for his leadership and actions arising from his deep faith in God; and

(2) the Senate joins the families of Ser-geant Ramirez, Sergeant Stone, and Spe-cialist Gonzales in expressing relief and joy at their safe release.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as if in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Without objection, it is so or-dered.

MIDWEST TORNADOES

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, yester-day, Senator INHOFE and myself, Con-gressmen J.C. WATTS, FRANK LUCAS and STEVE LARGENT, as well as the Governor of Oklahoma, and James Lee Witt, Director of FEMA, toured the Oklahoma tornado disaster.

I have been in the Senate, I guess, 19 years now, and I have looked at the damage of several tornadoes in the State for the last many years. But I have never seen this type of devasta-tion nor this level and this extent be-fore. This may be the most devastating tornado that we have had in total dam-ages in our State history. It has cer-tainly produced one of the largest tor-nadoes, probably the largest number of tornadoes. I read one press account that said there were 45 tornadoes in the State of Oklahoma on Monday. One particular tornado was much larger than the others. Many reports said it was a quarter of a mile wide, or maybe half a mile wide, and at some points it was maybe a mile wide and stayed on the ground for a long period of time—some people said maybe as much as 2 hours.

What we did see was a tremendous amount of damage—a devastating amount of damage that destroyed, it was estimated, 1,500 or 2,000 homes. We will find out. Unfortunately, it has taken 40-some lives. I say unfortu-nately. I think Oklahoma is very fortu-nate. I think the fatality toll could have been in the hundreds if not thou-sands, because we looked at homes that were just totally demolished as if a bomb had gone inside each one of those homes and absolutely exploded the homes. There was nothing but just some elements of rubble. To think that people survived in many of these homes is truly a blessing, truly a miracle that I think we will find recounted day after day.

Needless to say, we are moved by the tragedy, and also by the compassion that is being expressed by so many peo-ple from across the country.

We were there to say that we wanted to help, that our government would help, that we will do everything that we can. Our government steps in in times of tragedy and national disasters to help lend assistance. And we will do that.

I will also say that won't be enough. It will take a lot of support from indi-viduals, from churches, from commu-nities, from families and friends to try to replace these homes and these fami-lies, and to make them whole again. And they will. They will survive. They are very solid.

One of the things I will never forget was seeing this area that is totally de-molished and one house which hardly had anything left standing, and there was an American flag flying very high with people very proud.

Mr. President, it makes me proud to be an Oklahoman. It makes me proud to be an American, and proud to rep-resent the great people of Oklahoma.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the remainder of my time to my colleague from Oklahoma, Senator INHOFE.

Mr. INHOFE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Thank you, Mr. President. I thank my colleague, the senior Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. President, in Oklahoma we have gone through tragedies that are indescribable. The Murrah Federal Office Building was the most significant terrorist attack on domestic soil in the history of America. It is one that you can't describe standing here on the Senate floor. I have been there. And I remember so well the thundering march, the cadence of the fire trucks as they were going to try to extract so many people out of the building, and all types of volunteers.

We saw the same thing yesterday. It was indescribable. I note the story of a horse that was picked up and taken a quarter of a mile in the air, and dropped on top of a car, then a car on top of a house, and the twisted "I" beams. The power, the indescribable power that was there.

James Lee Witt—I am very complimentary of James Lee Witt, a man I have known long before he was Director of FEMA. As chairman of the committee that has jurisdiction over FEMA, I work very closely with him. And I tell you right now, he had his hands on there. He was personally involved in it. He explained to us that this is the most significant tornado that he had seen in terms of the devastating damage and power that was there.

You always remember one or two things. I recall in the helicopter ride going across a little town called Moore, OK. Everything was devastated in that town, except right across the street from the most devastating part of this tornado stood the First Baptist Church of Moore, OK. It had been untouched.

As my senior Senator from Oklahoma said, we are so appreciative of everyone coming together, for all of the comments of our colleagues since we have been back, the prayers that we had this morning from the Senate Chaplain and others, and people like the Governor of Oklahoma, the mayor of Oklahoma City throughout yesterday, the police departments and the fire departments, all of the volunteers, and certainly FEMA bringing this all together.

We are very thankful, and we in Oklahoma will be bound to that. We ask for your continued prayers for the families, for those who lost their lives, and for the families of those who lost their lives.

I thank very much all of the government coming together to help us rebuild the damage that has been done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BROWNBACK addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business for a period of up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KANSAS TORNADOES

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, the State of Kansas was also hit by the same system that hit Oklahoma which caused so much tragedy and damage. I would like to speak for a few minutes on that.

We had a number of families that had homes destroyed. We had five people killed in Kansas, hundreds were injured, and thousands of people lost their homes and businesses. I know they are in the hearts and minds of all Americans today, and we will stand ready to assist in that in any way we can.

The devastation that these tornadoes left in their paths is just shocking.

I want to show you a picture of the aftermath. This was actually taken of the damage that took place in Moore, OK. You can just see the devastating power that is in one of these systems that can rise up so fast and cause so much destruction. In Wichita, the trail of destruction was 15 miles long and 5 miles wide.

As I mentioned previously, five Kansans lost their lives, and more than 70 people were injured from the fatal twisters.

More than 500 homes have been damaged or destroyed, leaving many people homeless.

I have the second picture that I wanted to show people, a view of what has taken place. This is an aerial view of the Lake Shore Trailer Park in South Wichita. You can see where the path of the tornado was, where it was the most intense going through with just absolute destruction in the wake of that path of where it went through.

More than 50,000 people have been left without power.

Sedgwick County, KS, where Wichita is located, has reported that over 1,100 structures were destroyed, and more than 7,100 structures were damaged.

In the town of Haysville, right next to Wichita, 27 businesses have been wiped out, and virtually eliminating the business district of this Wichita suburb.

The father of one of my staffers—the person who is actually my scheduler—is the principal of Chisolm Life Skills Center in Wichita. His entire school was demolished by this tornado.

We are very proud of the rapid response of people who have reached out to help us through this terrible tragedy—the State and local authorities in Kansas, the rescue personnel, the Kansas National Guard, FEMA, and citizens of the Wichita area. They have really reached out in that typical Midwestern tradition of helping others when they are having difficulty.

I am also pleased to report that the President has responded quickly to the

situation in both Kansas and Oklahoma by ordering Federal relief to those counties hit by these devastating tornadoes. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army have provided 800 numbers for those wishing to help victims of these disasters.

I have pictures of a couple of victims. This apartment complex was destroyed in the wake of the path of the tornado. This is a picture of Suzie Dooley and her daughter, Sarah, who is 13, and their family dog, Wilma, trying to gather themselves after losing their mobile home near 55th Street, South, in Wichita. Their faces show the destruction they have been through, but also the hope and thanks they are alive and were not injured in the process.

The Red Cross and Salvation Army are offering shelter for people in Wichita who need help. The Red Cross has an 800 number, 800-HELP-NOW, to contact to provide help. We can provide a local phone number. They are on the Internet at www.DisasterRelief.org. Funds can be sent to the American Red Cross in Wichita. The Salvation Army has an 800 number as well.

I know the nature of Kansans and Americans is to help one another in a time of need. I will work with Federal and State authorities to provide fast and effective relief to families and communities harmed by this natural disaster.

I know I speak for my Senate colleague, my fellow Senator from Kansas, Senator PAT ROBERTS, in saying we will continue to keep the victims and their families in our actions, thoughts, and prayers as we hope much of the rest of the country will in this very difficult time.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I am sure all of our colleagues express our deep sympathy to the Senators from Oklahoma and Kansas and the communities that were so devastated by these storms.

We have all seen these disasters happen, and then the inspiration that Senator NICKLES alluded to, with everyone coming together. Clearly, this takes a lot of effort and a long time to dig out.

Our prayers will be with these Senators and these citizens of the fine States of Oklahoma and Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I add my words to those who talked about the tragedy in Oklahoma this morning. I remember watching television last night and seeing the power and the destructive might of those storms that swept across Oklahoma and parts of Kansas as well.

I have a feeling for what the people are going through, as a result of the disasters that hit North Dakota in 1997. We had the worst flood in 500 years in Grand Forks, ND, and we had 95 percent of the town evacuated, the largest mass evacuation of a city in the United States since the Civil War. I know the trauma those people are facing, and I know the difficulty of recovery.