

mother and father, Yvonne Green and Detective Garry Green of the Baltimore City Police Department; her brother, who she loved dearly, her "big brother," she called him, Marine Staff Sergeant Garry M. Green, Jr.; her sister-in-law, Kim; her nephew, Jayline; and all the family and friends who have been touched by Toccara's life.

This remarkable young woman was one of Maryland's finest citizens. Public service was in her blood. The Armed Forces seemed like a natural progression for Specialist Green. She spent 4 years in ROTC while attending Forest Park High School in my district in Baltimore. Her dad, a Baltimore City police detective, risks his life for us on the streets of Baltimore every day. Her brother, whose life was an inspiration to Specialist Green, serves in the Marines.

Her mother and father instilled in their children the importance of serving others. Yet, knowing the perils of war, they were apprehensive when their only daughter shared with them her dream of joining the Army. As loving parents, her safety and security was their priority. But Toccara Green's determination was steadfast.

Along with her intense desire to serve, she also shared her father's love of cars, and she transferred that love to her duty in the Army as a motor and transport operator. She was serving her second tour, her second tour of duty in Iraq when she was killed.

Toccara Green loved her country. She wanted to do all that she could to help people and give back to the Nation that had given so much to her.

Yet, as I noted, Mr. Speaker, her death is an all too painful reminder of how deeply the sorrows of war cut into our hearts and burden our souls. Now we will never know what her future would have become. Her family and her friends will never celebrate the milestones and triumphs that each passing year would have brought to her life. They have been deprived of her laughter, her affection and of her love.

Nevertheless, Specialist Green has left with them, and all of us, a legacy that can inspire. I am sure she saw more horror while serving in Iraq than most of us can ever imagine. Yet, even in the face of death and destruction, she had the ability to provide strength and a positive outlook to her weary fellow soldiers. She was an eternal optimist who could find the good in the worst of situations. They called her the unofficial morale officer of her unit.

Toccara Green was following a higher calling, a calling to serve. She rose above the adversity that surrounded her, lifting herself and others by her courage and her unyielding determination to do her part in attempting to make the world a better place.

Toccara Green gave our Nation her very best. She willingly did her job because she was a woman of honor and a courageous soldier. She touched the hearts and lives of all of those who knew her. As Americans, we owe her a

debt of gratitude that we can never repay. We can only do our best to give meaning to her sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the family of Specialist Green for sharing her with the Nation and the world. She is now at rest; and as a Christian who was active in her church, I am sure she is looking down from above saying, It is well, it is well, it is well with my soul.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INSPIRING ACTS OF KINDNESS OCCURRING IN WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share one of the many inspiring stories of personal commitment and sacrifice that have occurred in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In the Eleventh District of Georgia in the town of Marietta, my hometown, a community came together to rescue more than 30 hurricane victims from the Waldo Boys Home in Louisiana.

It started when Marlene Murphy, an employee at InfoMart, a local company in Marietta, made a desperate appeal to her fellow workers. Marlene's sister and brother-in-law were counselors at the Waldo Burton Boys Home in New Orleans. They were stranded, along with many of the residents and staff, after floodwaters engulfed that city.

Without wasting a bit of time, InfoMart employees, led by the company's president, Tammy Cohen, swung into action, taking on the cause as their own. The employees brought food, clothing, and necessities for the stranded boys. They notified the Coast Guard of the situation. Naval Air Station Atlanta's Captain Sean King and other leaders in the community quickly organized a mission to rescue these victims.

InfoMart rented three passenger vans and a truck, and they started that long trip to New Orleans. On the way, there were plenty of reasons to turn back: 2-mile long lines for gas, police barricades, and even cars driving on the wrong side of the interstate.

But these volunteers did not for a second think of themselves or their troubles. They were only focused on rescuing these boys, no matter what; and I am proud to report that their mission was a success. Fifteen boys, aged from 12 months to 15 years, along with 16 staff and family members, were brought back to Marietta, Georgia, where now they were welcomed by a generous community eager to help.

After spending the night in donated rooms at the Marietta Conference Center, the boys are now being transitioned into three homes owned by the YWCA. They have been fed. They have been given fresh clothes and personal necessities. Efforts are being made also to locate other family members, and local businesses and charities are donating the resources needed to get these victims settled.

Mr. Speaker, if I thank all the people who deserve praise for this astonishing and selfless effort, we would be here all night. A gas station in Birmingham donated gas for the trip home, and local restaurants, like Panera Bread and Mellow Mushroom Pizza, are donating food for the boys. InfoMart employees and community members have donated supplies, clothes, and that most important gift of all, their time.

This is a shining example of a community coming together to help another community. In this time of crisis we can draw strength from the knowledge that Americans are helping Americans. It is good to know that the American way is a generous and giving one.

Mr. Speaker, the acts of kindness I have witnessed in Katrina's wake make me proud to be a citizen of this great Nation. Neither waves, nor rain, nor wind, nor blistering heat can crush the American spirit. Wherever nature kicks us down, there are millions of hands waiting to lift us up.

There are many acts of kindness taking place across this Nation, and I ask that you join me in praising the selfless dedication our citizens have shown in opening their wallets, their homes, and, most importantly, their hearts.

ENSURING THAT MEDICAID IS AVAILABLE TO HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina put a human face on hardship. It reminded us that there are Americans who work hard and pay their taxes and play by the rules, yet are still hanging on by a thread. It reminded us how easily that thread can break. In the clearest terms possible, it communicated the value, both tangible and intangible, of government assistance.

Many people who suffered from Katrina have relied on Medicaid, a government health care program for poor families, for families who are working but do not make enough or have health insurance. Yet as we return to Washington this week after surveying the damage from this terrible storm, Republican leaders are pursuing \$10 billion, \$10 billion, in cuts to that Medicaid program, in large part because they are insisting on more tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent of the people of our country.

As we saw the poorest in New Orleans left behind while those who were more affluent were able to escape, this Congress, frankly, is mimicking that same process, that same scenario, where we are giving tax cuts to the wealthiest citizens, while the poorest and the middle class and those who are working hard and playing by the rules and paying their taxes but who cannot afford health care, we are leaving them behind.

Our Nation's leaders must stop blaming the poor for having the same health care needs we all do. Helping the poor secure health care is not a frivolous extravagance; it is an expression of our values as a Nation. Health care is expensive. No one has figured out, especially in this institution, with the power of the drug companies and the influence of the insurance industry, no one here has been willing to find a solution to contain medical costs without stifling medical progress.

Our Nation's leaders must stop pretending that taking health care away from the poor solves that dilemma. They must stop pretending that the poor take advantage of Medicaid, as if enrollees look for excuses to take off work and see the doctor. The Nation's leaders must stop pretending that taking health care away from the poor will not hurt them. It is a convenient theory. It is also patently false.

Hurricane Katrina forced this Nation, if only for a few days, to see through the eyes of Americans living in poverty. It was a grim reminder that Americans from all walks of life can be financially independent one day and in desperate need the next. A natural disaster, a catastrophic illness, a stock market crash, an aging parent, a sick child, that is all it takes.

Katrina reminded us that when Americans witness human suffering, they do everything in their power as a great Nation, as the people, not the government, they do everything in their power to alleviate that suffering.

Medicaid is the Nation's insurer of last resort. It simply is a financing mechanism that, with modest adjustments and sufficient resources, can accommodate the health care needs of the hurricane victims without delay, without red tape. Medicaid serves people who have virtually no resources of their own. In Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, we have seen what that kind of poverty looks like.

Some policymakers have proposed saving money by increasing the cost-sharing burden on Medicare enrollees, people who already ration every dollar to get through their daily lives, to cover their basic necessities.

Medicaid enrollees are not going to respond to increased cost-sharing by forsaking discretionary care. Other obstacles, like transportation costs and hourly wage jobs, already force those choices. Increased cost-sharing will deter timely, necessary health care. That is not right, that is not smart, that is not compassionate. Delays increase the cost of treating illnesses.

Policymakers have also proposed "tailoring" Medicaid coverage to fit the health care needs of different beneficiaries. That is not an efficient way of cutting costs; it is an efficient way of cutting care. It is the wrong decision to make, to make this \$10 billion Medicaid cut.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-217) on the resolution (H. Res. 426) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MINNESOTANS SUPPORT HURRICANE SURVIVORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the Minnesota spirit is alive and well. The Minnesota spirit of compassion and help for people in need has moved countless Minnesotans to step forward to provide relief for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

My district office has literally been overwhelmed with calls from people offering housing, food, clothing, health care, labor, and monetary assistance. Camp Ripley, located in northern Minnesota, is presently welcoming over 3,000 survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Other Minnesota communities are similarly opening their doors.

In our suburban communities, churches and synagogues, civic and service clubs, school groups, the business community and numerous other organizations have answered the call to help disaster survivors. The Minnesota Vikings football team collected 70,000 pounds of clothing, toiletries, and other supplies for Katrina's survivors. As head coach Mike Tice said, this was an example of Americans helping Americans.

In our Lake Minnetonka community, Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners, representing 21 area churches, has a long history of helping people in need. Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners is jump-starting its annual housing fund drive to aid the housing needs of Hurricane Katrina survivors. I will be home this coming Saturday to join Interfaith Outreach &

Community Partners in kicking off a drive to raise \$1.5 million for people in the gulf States who are so devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

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John Berg, chairman of the Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners Housing Fund, put it best when he said, "It's simply the right thing to do. We can't look away from the suffering of these people. We need to leverage all the resources and partnerships available to ensure a safe place to call home for both the families and children of our community and the families and children devastated by Katrina. It's a time for faith," concluded Mr. Berg.

Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners, Mr. Speaker, which sponsors the Sleep Out annually to raise funds for homeless people in our community, will also continue to raise funds for local emergency and long-term housing initiatives. Last winter's Sleep Out raised over \$1.3 million from the generous people of our Lake Minnetonka communities to literally, literally, bring in 42 homeless families from the cold and to enable 656 other families with over 800 children to keep a roof overhead.

Mr. Speaker, the people of our communities back home have big hearts, and I know they will come through again for the Hurricane Katrina Housing Relief Fund. A special thanks to all the good people of Minnesota for opening their arms to hurricane survivors who have suffered so greatly. Once again, Mr. Speaker, the people I am proud to represent are doing the Lord's work here on Earth.

SMART SECURITY AND THE KATRINA HURRICANE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Katrina, the Category 4 hurricane that hit the gulf coast last week, leveled nearly everything in its path. It tore apart homes and destroyed entire coastal cities. It has taken the lives of countless hundreds, if not thousands. It will cost an estimated \$150 billion to rebuild and repair the affected region.

Sadly, the Federal Government's response to Katrina was lackluster at best and shamefully negligent at worst. Despite the public's forewarning that there was a knowledge of Katrina's severity, the Bush administration failed to provide adequate Federal aid and hands-on support for the thousands of citizens stuck in the storm's aftermath. A large part of this failure stems directly from the lack of qualified first responders, the thousands of Guardsmen and Reservists who are currently stuck fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is during wholesale natural disasters like these that Americans should be able to rely on our Nation's capable National Guard and Reserve forces.