

uniquely trained USUHS graduates—physicians, advanced practice nurses, and scientists. The University fulfills a critical core requirement for medical readiness in the Department of Defense; and, Colonel Serio has greatly contributed to the preparation of dedicated, career-oriented uniformed officers who will care for those who are sent into harm's way.

I take this opportunity to thank COL Charles Serio for his tremendous dedication and love for our Nation and wish him well as he retires to begin his next demanding career as a grandfather to his five grandchildren along with his three daughters, Shanna, Jada and Tara, and his wife, the former Belva L. McCormick.

STATEMENT ON HURRICANE
KATRINA

HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, On September 2, 2005, I made the following statement at a press conference in Atlanta, GA and I submit it for the RECORD.

I thank the Mayor and my colleagues for convening this press conference to express solidarity in our concern for the plight of Katrina's victims. The message today is that while we are watching this tragedy unfold, we are not sitting idly by.

The Office of the Fourth Congressional District has adopted Baton Rouge Mosque #65 which is housing 100 New Orleans residents. They need dry goods, food, and hygiene kits. Anyone interested in helping us help these 100 people, please bring donations to our Congressional office as soon as possible.

As we open our hearts, pocketbooks, and homes to Katrina's victims, it is now imperative that the Government do its part.

To see it coming is not enough. The Administration appears flat-footed as its actions have not been fast enough and remain slower than most Americans can comprehend. A responsive government would:

1. Maximize the use of U.S. Customs air assets to drop badly needed food and supplies to the people. Sadly, I have been told by an investigative journalist that precious Customs air assets are available, but are not being used to ferry badly-needed food, radios, and supplies. We dropped food in Afghanistan, certainly we can drop food in the United States.

2. Tell the people what they can expect from their leadership in authority. Clear lines of authority should have been established and the people informed of what the government was going to do to alleviate their suffering. Much of the confusion and chaos we are witnessing is due to ineffective communication of the plan of action to the people in the affected areas.

3. Preposition necessities. It is clear that the Administration failed to preposition hospital ships, pumps, and supplies, in the face of a Category 5 hurricane barreling toward the Gulf States. The Administration is just now mobilizing to satisfy the massive and desperate need. And sadly, 40 percent of the Mississippi National Guard are in Iraq; 35 percent of the Louisiana National Guard are in Iraq; for Florida, the figure is 25 percent; Alabama has 23 percent of its Guard stationed in Iraq.

4. Be careful of the language used. What media bright light decided to term the New

Orleans residents as "refugees"? It is insulting and should be stopped immediately. And, how dare anyone talk down to a devastated population while Bunnatine Greenhouse sits busted from her job because she dared to pull the plug on Halliburton's looting of the U.S. Treasury of billions of dollars. The President asks for patience and lends Katrina's victims his thoughts and prayers. That is not enough given the magnitude of the problem. And FEMA should not now tell victims to take responsibility, but must instead deal with its own responsibility to care for a devastated population. And finally, talk from Speaker Hastert and others questioning the value of rebuilding the City of New Orleans should be arrested immediately.

5. Recalibrate its values and priorities. New Orleans is not just a home for hundreds of thousands; its ports form the heart of America's domestic and international commerce, and our oil and gas nerve center. Shame on this Administration for slashing money to protect New Orleans and shifting it to Halliburton and Iraq. Shame on this Administration for not curtailing our dependency on overconsumption of oil; and for not recognizing global warming. Shame on this Administration for failing to take care of the American people.

6. Offer maximum assistance to people in need. Houston's Astrodome has already reached its capacity. Atlanta has the capacity to give and a desire to share.

Thank you.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3169 AND H.R.
3668

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 3169, the Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act, and H.R. 3668, the Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act, introduced by my colleagues, Congressmen KELLER and JINDAL, respectively.

H.R. 3169 would waive Pell grant repayment requirements for students that were impacted by natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. Mr. KELLER, who serves with me on the 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee on Education and the Workforce, has been advocating for this change in the law since his State of Florida was hit by four hurricanes last year, and he saw how students' lives were impacted by the devastation wrought by the hurricanes.

The Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act will ensure that Hurricane Katrina does not derail the educational dreams of our neediest students. I am pleased to co-sponsor this bill and appreciate its speedy consideration by our leadership.

H.R. 3668 complements Mr. KELLER's bill by waiving repayment requirements for other Federal student grant aid programs that were affected by a natural disaster. I know that this is a difficult time for Mr. JINDAL, his family, and his constituents whose homes have been destroyed and their families scattered across the country. I applaud Congressman JINDAL for his leadership on this bill, and for his ongoing courage and strength throughout this difficult time.

This legislation is the right thing to do because it helps increase assistance and flexibility for students and families impacted by

Hurricane Katrina. Students affected by this devastating natural disaster will be able to focus on rebuilding their lives without an additional burden on their backs.

In the coming days and weeks, I will continue to work with my colleagues and with the administration and governmental agencies to examine the areas that have been impacted by this terrible tragedy and what additional flexibility and assistance we may be able to provide to help restore normalcy to students and their families.

I thank Mr. KELLER and Mr. JINDAL for their leadership on these bills, and I gladly support their efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY SILVER JUBILEE
OF THE DOELGER SENIOR CENTER
OF DALY CITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize the Doelger Senior Center of Daly City, California, located in my Congressional district, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary silver jubilee. Serving the elderly of Daly City, Doelger Senior Center enhances the quality of life and promotes wellness by providing social, educational and health services to all adults, ages fifty and older.

In 1978, seniors had the vision of a senior center in Daly City. After 16 months of campaigning by wearing orange buttons, their hope for a center became a reality when Daly City and Thelma Doelger purchased a "released" school site, Abraham Lincoln School. Mrs. Doelger offered to share the cost of the school in memory of her late husband Henry, who had created the Westlake planned community. Following a year of fundraising and planning, move-in began at the new Doelger Senior Center. On November 1, 1980, Mayor Anthony Giammona dedicated the building and Edward M. King of Doelger Enterprises presented the building to the City of Daly City.

Through its 25 years of service to the community, many members of the Doelger Senior Center have played an influential role in its successful and continual service to Daly City elders. President Emeritus Edward King founded the center along with board members Alfred Belotz and William Crocker. Beverly di Gregorio and Richard Slater also served on the board of founding directors.

Today, Doelger Senior Center provides and delivers 50,000 meals to Lincoln Community Center and the homebound. Additionally, the center offers more than 100 different classes and programs. Both the young and the old enjoy center-sponsored activities, such as the Pre-independence party on July 3rd.

Mr. Speaker, the Doelger Senior Center remains a vigorous, expanding, and exciting community organization. The Doelger Senior Center continuously stands as a community of care, entertainment, friendship, support, and education. I urge all my colleagues to join me in commending the Doelger Senior Center on the occasion of their 25th anniversary and wish its members continued success.