

Ms. Kendall has also been extremely active in pro bono work. She has created programs in which Federal prosecutors go into Chicago high schools and educate students about the dangers of gun violence and the workings of the criminal justice system. One of her programs received an award from the Department of Justice as the most outstanding volunteer program in the country. Ms. Kendall and her husband have worked closely with students from the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, an amazing success story of a high school in Pilson, a low-income Latino neighborhood in Chicago.

In addition, Ms. Kendall has served as an adjunct law professor at Loyola University law school for the past 12 years. Some of her former law school students contacted me and said she was the best professor they ever had. That speaks very well of Ms. Kendall's ability not only to understand the law, but to teach it.

One of Ms. Kendall's biggest supporters is her boss—Patrick Fitzgerald—the United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois. He wrote me a long letter singing her praises, and he concluded:

I can also assure you that Ginny is a warm and compassionate person who is very attentive to the human needs of those she works with and supervises. Ginny's combination of legal talents, experience as a prosecutor, supervisor and instructor, and commitment to bettering the communities most in need of help would stand her in great stead if she were selected as a federal judge in this district.

I am pleased to report that Ms. Kendall also receives high marks from her opposing counsel and has an excellent reputation in the criminal defense bar. One of her opposing counsel described her as "honorable, decent, ethical, and someone with an ideal temperament." Another opposing counsel said Ms. Kendall was "down to earth, honest, straightforward, reliable, and full of integrity."

I was not surprised to learn that a substantial majority of the American Bar Association's judicial nomination review committee gave Ms. Kendall their highest possible rating of "Well Qualified." I am confident that, as a judge, Ms. Kendall will serve with honor, courage, and distinction on the Federal bench in the Northern District of Illinois for many years to come.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

The Senator from Louisiana.

(The remarks of Ms. LANDRIEU pertaining to the introduction of S. 2171 and S. 2172 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

HURRICANE RELIEF

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, while we did leave a lot of work to be done,

I do want to thank my colleagues, particularly Chairman COCHRAN and Senator BYRD, for shepherding through a tremendous direct relief bill. That would not have happened without these two leaders. It was initially sent to us at \$17 billion, with an anemic funding level for our levees. It was basically a bill that fixed Federal buildings and sent money to Federal bureaucracies and didn't reach the people directly or our cities or counties or parishes or churches or schools or hospitals. Senator COCHRAN took that bill and he stood it up and added some extraordinary pieces to it and fought like a tiger to keep that money flexible but accountable so our Governors could start rebuilding our States again, with help from the Federal Government; not just promises but real help. If it had not been for Senators COCHRAN and BYRD and the appropriators who helped to stand this bill up, we would be leaving here tonight in a much less hopeful situation.

We passed that bill out of here a little while ago. It is headed to the House of Representatives. That part is not controversial, but the process is controversial. I hope the House Members will pass that tomorrow so the people of the gulf coast, who have been waiting not for a week, not for 2 weeks, but for 4 months for this Congress to send some package of hope, other than money to FEMA, but a package of hope to our elected officials so they can get their parishes stood up, people back home, the lights turned on, the hospitals working again, the universities functioning again, and stop firing and start hiring people so we can stand up this economy.

I am hoping that tomorrow the House will act, and we will at least send this \$29 billion home. Just today the President signed an \$8 billion tax relief package that is full of targeted and specific tax credits and tax relief for businesses and individuals that will help as well. I thank the administration for their support of that bill.

Particularly I thank Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY. Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN worked very hard on many portions of this bill as a member of the Finance Committee. I could not leave tonight to go home for the holidays without thanking Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS. Without them, that bill never would have made it through the process. On the House side, Congressman JIM McCRERY and my own Congressman from New Orleans, BILL JEFFERSON, had a great deal to do with the success of that bill.

As we get ready to celebrate Christmas and we remember members of our own family, my parents, my siblings, cousins, very good friends who have lost their homes and their businesses, as we remember the 250,000 homes that have been destroyed and the millions of people impacted negatively, at least this Congress can say we passed an \$8 billion tax bill that will help many directly and give them immediate relief

as it was signed today, and this \$29 billion direct package reallocating FEMA money that is sitting in a bank account and give it to people for this Christmas holiday, and then to resolve when we get back to take up and design some new tools for reconstruction that can help in the area particularly of housing, which is such a desperate need, and reorganization of our neighborhoods and communities.

I can rest assured that the leadership in Louisiana, with the Louisiana Recovery District, led by the Governor, who appointed Norman Francis and Walter Isaacson, the two leaders of the LRA, is prepared, with our local officials, to come up with new and innovative strategies to build a great city of New Orleans again, the great parishes of Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemine, then to move over to the southwest and give the small parishes, such as Cameron, which was totally destroyed, the help they need to stand back up, so we can stand up our farms, hospitals, petrochemical industry, keep our ports open, start hiring teachers and doctors back, and start building up the 18,000 businesses that were lost. Forty-one percent of the businesses in Louisiana were destroyed by this hurricane. Our income fell 25 percent, our personal income, in a report released today.

I know everybody is tired. It has been a long day. I am ready to go home myself and have a few Christmas gifts wrapped before the weekend. But I can say that last night in New Orleans, there was the first party thrown in a long time at Gallier Hall, the old city hall. Although Senator VITTER and I couldn't be there, 500 people showed up. While there were a lot of stories about the heartache that had occurred, there was a lot of hope in the hearts of the people who came. There were former mayors and former council members and leaders of the community, Black and White, Hispanic and Asian. And despite the fact that still this Congress doesn't understand in every way why New Orleans matters, I can promise you that the spirit of the people who live in this city will not let it die, will not let south Louisiana die.

We are going to come back and work even harder to add to the package we passed tonight to get the job done and to be a model for the country, should this catastrophe ever strike another area again.

I thank my colleagues for getting through at least tonight the \$29 billion of direct relief and the \$8 billion tax package. When we come back, we have work to do on coastal, work to do on housing. I look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to get the job done for the people of Louisiana and the gulf coast.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.