

Thomas A. Jacobson, 0000
 Weston R. James, 0000
 Douglas A. Jannusch, 0000
 John W. Kaser, 0000
 Richard J. Kavanaugh, 0000
 Tonya G. Kelley, 0000
 Raymond S. Kingsley, 0000
 Andrew C. Kirkpatrick, 0000
 Shawn A. Lansing, 0000
 Patrick J. Lee, 0000
 Joseph J. Leonard, 0000
 John R. Luff, 0000
 Ezekiel J. Lyons, 0000
 Richard A. Mach, 0000
 Steven D. Mahany, 0000
 Robert J. Manning, 0000
 Charles Marino, 0000
 Ronaydee M. Marquez, 0000
 Timothy R. Martin, 0000
 Stephen Matadobra, 0000
 James J. Mazel, 0000
 Brian K. McCaul, 0000
 James M. Mcclay, 0000
 Kerri W. Merklin, 0000
 Robert A. Moomaw, 0000
 David J. Moore, 0000
 Ferdinand Morales, 0000
 Michael J. Munnerlyn, 0000
 John R. Nims, 0000
 Jessica E. Noel, 0000
 Bryan K. Oditt, 0000
 David M. Otani, 0000
 Hector M. Pacheco, 0000
 Charles N. Parham, 0000
 Michael Parker, 0000
 Jeffrey C. Peterson, 0000
 Jose L. Ramirez, 0000
 Christian P. Rigney, 0000
 Justo E. Rivera, 0000
 David J. Roberts, 0000
 Richard D. Russell, 0000
 Paul T. Sanger, 0000
 Brent R. Schmadeke, 0000
 William A. Schrade, 0000
 John R. Scott, 0000
 Heather D. Skowron, 0000
 Samuel L. Slay, 0000
 Bradley J. Smith, 0000
 Jason S. Smith, 0000
 Lawrence W. Sohl, 0000
 Lane A. Solak, 0000
 Gabriel J. Somma, 0000
 Lane G. Steffenhagen, 0000
 Thomas M. Stokes, 0000
 John R. Strasburg, 0000
 Roderick A. Stroud, 0000
 Jonathan E. Sullivan, 0000
 Carol M. Swinson, 0000
 John K. Titchen, 0000
 Terry R. Trelford, 0000
 Shaun T. Vaccaro, 0000
 Thomas C. Vaughn, 0000
 Stephen E. West, 0000
 Todd C. Wiggen, 0000
 Charles Wojaczyk, 0000
 Marcus P. Wong, 0000
 Maurice S. York, 0000
 Steven M. Youde, 0000
 Jacob A. Zalewski, 0000
 Peter J. Zauner, 0000
 Peter E. Zohimsky, 0000

To be lieutenant junior grade

Regina E. Adams, 0000
 Jereme M. Altendorf, 0000
 Walner W. Alvarez, 0000
 Jennifer J. Andrew, 0000
 Edward S. Aponte, 0000
 Michael P. Attanasio, 0000
 Geoffrey M. Barela, 0000
 Ellen P. Batt, 0000
 James R. Bendle, 0000
 Jeffrey S. Bogdanovich, 0000
 Thomas R. Bolin, 0000
 Jeffrey M. Bolling, 0000
 Barnaby W. Bosanquet, 0000
 Devon S. Brennan, 0000
 Collin R. Bronson, 0000

Melanie A. Burnham, 0000
 Matthew A. Calvert, 0000
 Manuel B. Camargo, 0000
 James J. Camp, 0000
 Taylor J. Carlisle, 0000
 Luis O. Carmona, 0000
 Christopher L. Carter, 0000
 Timothy S. Casares, 0000
 Xochitl L. Castaneda, 0000
 Eric W. Chang, 0000
 David M. Coburn, 0000
 Harlan J. Copeland, 0000
 Trevor C. Cowan, 0000
 Robert H. Creigh, 0000
 Michael Crowe, 0000
 Dorain M. Dailey, 0000
 Willy J. Dasal, 0000
 Ali W. Davis, 0000
 Kelvin J. Davis, 0000
 John F. Dewey, 0000
 Adam H. Drews, 0000
 Glen R. Enzfelder, 0000
 Bryan M. Estell, 0000
 Kerry A. Feltner, 0000
 Alan J. Fitzgerald, 0000
 Robert F. Fitzgerald, 0000
 David L. Flanders, 0000
 Angelique Flood, 0000
 Jason S. Franz, 0000
 Brett A. Freels, 0000
 Tracy D. Funck, 0000
 Matthew A. Gabbianelli, 0000
 Oscar R. Galvez, 0000
 Lisa L. Garcez, 0000
 Joseph S. Giammanco, 0000
 Erin K. Gilson, 0000
 Christopher L. Grooms, 0000
 Danielle R. Hartley, 0000
 James R. Herrera, 0000
 Jason D. Hetherington, 0000
 Neal D. Hinkel, 0000
 Crist M. Holveck, 0000
 Jason A. Hopkins, 0000
 Kenneth C. Jones, 0000
 Thomas D. Jones, 0000
 Luann J. Kehlenbach, 0000
 Steven A. Koch, 0000
 Matthew R. Kolodica, 0000
 Duane W. Lemmon, 0000
 Preston O. Logan, 0000
 Jeffrey D. Lynch, 0000
 Jonathan M. Mangum, 0000
 Ezra L. Manuel, 0000
 Arthur P. Martin, 0000
 Matthew K. Matsuoka, 0000
 Doreen McCarthy, 0000
 Kevin J. McDonald, 0000
 Stacy L. McNeer, 0000
 John M. McWilliams, 0000
 Nathan S. Menefee, 0000
 Matthew J. Meskun, 0000
 Anthony R. Migliorini, 0000
 Douglas J. Miller, 0000
 Robert S. Morris, 0000
 Merridith R. Morrison, 0000
 Ernesto Muniztirado, 0000
 Walter L. Ouzts, 0000
 John G. Peterson, 0000
 Todd P. Porter, 0000
 Beau G. Powers, 0000
 Kevin J. Rapp, 0000
 Joseph R. Raymond, 0000
 Jeffrey H. Rubini, 0000
 Michael K. Saffold, 0000
 Tanya C. Saunders, 0000
 Karey J. Sayre, 0000
 Ray A. Slapkunas, 0000
 Adam C. Spencer, 0000
 Jon D. Stewart, 0000
 Mary W. Stewart, 0000
 Calvin Summers, 0000
 Nicholas J. Tabori, 0000
 Danny M. Tcheng, 0000
 Miguel E. Torrez, 0000
 Otis C. Travers, 0000
 Douglas M. Trent, 0000
 Kristofer A. Tsairis, 0000
 Christopher B. Tuckey, 0000

Matthew D. Vanderbeck, 0000
 Kou Vang, 0000
 Kraig L. Washington, 0000
 Matthew G. Weber, 0000
 Justin L. Westmiller, 0000
 Kevin S. Wilkinson, 0000
 Shay R. Williams, 0000
 Timothy J. Williams, 0000
 Christopher Wolfer, 0000
 John D. Wood, 0000
 Brett R. Workman, 0000
 Warren N. Wright, 0000
 Ben Wroblewski, 0000
 Damian N. Yemma, 0000
 Christopher J. Young, 0000

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Richard A. Boucher, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

SIGNING AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader and the senior Senator from Virginia be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

APPOINTMENT AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or inter-parliamentary conferences authorized by law, by current action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 345, the adjournment resolution; provided that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 345) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 345

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, February 16, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day

from Friday, February 17, 2006, through Tuesday, February 21, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, February 27, 2006, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4745, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4745) making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loans program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, after the close of business on February 9, 2006, the Small Business Administration, SBA, notified my office that the SBA Disaster Loan Program was going to run out of money 4 days later on February 13, 2006. I was outraged that my office was only made aware of the situation because USA Today was about to do a story on it. The Disaster Loan Program is one of the most important lifelines that the people of my State are relying on to pull themselves out of the destruction wrought by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. When SBA first knew about the funding shortfall in this program, the Senators from Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Texas, and Alabama should have been the first people told. No doubt some of my colleagues may only have learned about this in the media. That is not how a Federal agency should notify Congress of important developments.

The administration has requested, and the Appropriations Committee has approved, a reprogramming of \$100 million from SBA's salaries and expenses account to the Disaster Loan Program to keep it funded for another 2 weeks. The program will still need additional funding beyond this. H.R. 4745, that is before the Senate today, will allow for a reallocation of \$712 million in funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to SBA in order to keep the Disaster Loan Program running until the end of April. They hope that by then Congress will have acted on an

additional Katrina supplemental appropriations bill to keep the Disaster Loan Program funded through the end of the fiscal year. I certainly support this legislation and I am pleased that SBA acted to keep the Disaster Loan Program funded.

But even with these temporary extensions, this latest incident is just another example of the poor performance of SBA under the its Administrator Hector Barreto. SBA told us that it has known about this problem since December when they realized that their average disaster loan size for damage as a result of Katrina was double what they had previously experienced in the program. So all of their estimates were off. They knew that the amount of money they had budgeted for disaster loans to businesses and homeowners for the program would not last. But they never said anything to us about it—until they thought that the press would tell us first.

The Small Business Committee held hearings focusing on SBA's disaster response to Katrina and Rita, so the agency knew that this was a major concern to the chair and ranking member of the committee, Senator SNOWE and Senator KERRY, as well as myself and my colleague from Louisiana, Senator VITTER. The committee staff is in almost daily contact with SBA, giving SBA ample opportunity to discuss upcoming issues that would warrant congressional attention. No one at SBA raised this issue, everything was fine.

When the administration released the Federal budget for 2007, SBA made no mention that the Disaster Loan Program was going to need additional funding. The SBA's Chief Financial Officer took part in budget briefings for staff along with other SBA officials. Again no mention that the Disaster Loan Program was running out of money.

Mr. President, if this was an isolated incident or oversight, I would not be nearly as disappointed. But this is far from an isolated event. My constituents have been complaining about SBA and the Disaster Loan Program since the earliest days after the disaster. Katrina and Rita catastrophically destroyed or damaged over 18,000 businesses and over 200,000 homes in Louisiana alone. Early on after the storm, disaster victims had to wait months for their loans to be approved. The agency did not have enough staff on the ground to do damage assessments. The situation has improved since those early days, and the SBA has finally heeded our calls to contract out the loss verification process to speed things up. I commend them for coming to their senses on that, but I still believe that the SBA's slow start has led to business failures and has left many homeowners without any hope of returning home.

Furthermore, SBA's failure to accurately track the finances of the Disaster Loan Program, and more importantly, its neglect in keeping Congress

updated on this developing problem, is evidence of a culture of inefficiency that goes through to the highest levels of the SBA. I want to know what these officials knew and when they knew it, because certainly no one in Congress was told until February 1. That is 12 days—I repeat 12 days—before the program was set to run out of money.

Mr. President, Katrina and Rita threw the gulf coast into a state of uncertainty. SBA's handling of the Disaster Loan Program has only made this feeling of uncertainty worse. We need more than a string of temporary fixes to the financial viability of the program to ensure that the dollars will be there for the people in the gulf who are trying to rebuild. We need a permanent solution or else the management mistakes of the past will continue to plague the SBA's disaster response for future disasters.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program is facing another shutdown this month unless Congress passes a bill to provide the program with more funding. A shutdown of this program would further slow the recovery of the gulf, where hundreds of thousands of business owners and homeowners have been waiting months for the administration to process and disburse loans to help them pay their bills and start rebuilding their businesses and homes.

As of this week, according to the SBA's data, out of more than 60,000 loans approved for businesses and homeowners, only 23,000 have been partially or fully disbursed. And out of the almost 375,000 applications received, 190,000 are still waiting to be processed. The families and businesses waiting should not be subjected to yet another roadblock to assistance through the disaster loan program.

The mismanagement of the SBA's disaster loan program has been well-documented on national news programs like CNN and in major papers like the Washington Post and USA Today. The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship has held two hearings on the matter. Adding to the problems, the SBA was not paying attention to the books and didn't realize it was making larger loans and spending more than it had estimated. This lack of oversight brought the program to the brink of shutting down.

When the President's budget was released on February 6, the SBA discovered it only had enough money to make it to February 13. Instead of being forthcoming about the problem when the SBA and its financial team came up to brief the oversight Committee on SBA's budget and financial standing, they were silent. Luckily, as has been the pattern since President Bush has been in office, the Congress stepped in to pass emergency legislation to keep one of SBA's small business programs up and running.

Specifically, Congress approved a last-minute request from the administration to reprogram \$100 million from