

and every business was destroyed. They were ruined not just because of the storms and the hurricanes which come and there is nothing much we can do to stop them, but because the levees broke which the Federal Government is supposed to maintain, and because of spending money in other places and not protecting people in their homes.

So as my colleagues know, we had water 15 feet high that stood for up to 6 to 8 and sometimes 10 weeks in some places. Our communities have been struggling with how we might better approach the recovery should something—and I see my colleague from Seattle, WA—should a tsunami hit Seattle, which is a major, very important American city, or should a category 5 storm hit Long Island like it did in 1938 when only a few hundred thousand people lived there but now millions of people do. We need to do a better job of responding. So Congress has been involved in that for this last year, and I predict will be involved in it for many years to come until we get it right.

But one of the things that we did get right is that the northern parishes of Louisiana came to the aid of those from the southern parishes, and one of those parishes that I am here to speak briefly about is Madison Parish. It is a small parish up in the northeastern part of our State, and it is a poor parish. It has great natural resources and very vibrant and vital agricultural land, but it is quite poor, generally. It is a district with only 3,000 students in school. But as the people fled from south Louisiana and south Mississippi and southeastern Texas to flee from the rising water of the storms, many of them found their way to Madison Parish.

Madison Parish superintendent Michael Johnson led this effort to absorb several hundred students into a very small school system that was already overburdened. The storm didn't, of course, hit Madison Parish directly but, of course, indirectly they were impacted by some high winds that made it up to north Louisiana, and were mostly impacted by students and families who ran there for shelter. There were many shelters put up. Superintendent Johnson, as many superintendents in north Louisiana, reached out their hands and, without a lot of help, without any textbooks, without a lot of information about how this was supposed to happen, took the children in. Not only did children find a safe place in Madison Parish school systems to attend school because their schools in south Louisiana were ruined, but with all of this, Madison Parish was one of the parishes that improved their test scores substantially on the last LEAP test given in Louisiana. Not only did their scores improve, but students and educators in Madison Parish at the same time were welcoming evacuated children with open arms.

Madison Parish is not the only parish that saw a substantial rise in test scores this year. Beauregard Parish has

also done well. We are very proud of all of our school systems that did better in a very difficult year, but most certainly we are proud of those small, poor, rural school systems that, with good leadership, are making substantial progress.

We don't talk enough about education on the floor of the Senate, in my view, and we don't often at all talk about the small areas of our country that are making extraordinary progress in less populated areas. We talk a lot about New York and Chicago and Los Angeles, but we don't always get to hear about small places that are not even recognizable sometimes to many people on the map. But since I visited Madison Parish recently and had a great tour of north Louisiana, I thought I would take a minute to come and praise publicly this particular superintendent and to call attention to many of our superintendents who, despite the fact that we keep cutting their Federal funding, are managing to meet these high standards and to lift their children up and to make their school system and others better for the future of our States and our region.

Superintendent Johnson has been the impetuous for Madison Parish's recent success. Interestingly, Superintendent Johnson was working as superintendent of schools for New York City's District 29 when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Superintendent Johnson took over in August before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit and proceeded with the same positive energy he embodied in New York. The Madison Parish School District now has improved their LEAP test scores by reducing the percentage of students scoring Unsatisfactory and increased the percentage of students scoring Basic and above. They have also reduced suspensions at the elementary and middle school levels.

Not only have their scores improved, but the students and educators of Madison Parish have welcomed the evacuated children with open arms. Under Superintendent Johnson's leadership, they used their resources to provide the children lunch, buy clothes, books and other necessary items. They provided increased after school programs so these students would spend less time in shelters and have some sense of normalcy. The students and staff helped the displaced children and teachers begin to replace their personal possessions and helped them work through their feelings in the crisis. This was something that Superintendent Johnson understood very well from his experiences in New York and added to his success in caring for the children taken in after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by Madison Parish.

As students come back into southern Louisiana and begin the new school year, I would like to recognize how beautifully our students were welcomed into schools systems like Madison Parish. Superintendent Johnson

and his community are an example of the best in our society—the generosity and compassion that is found in the hearts of our people. I also want all of us to look to the Madison Parish School System and to Superintendent Michael Johnson as an example of how a low performing school can, not only turn their scores around, but offer help to those students who are less fortunate.

Thank you to all students, teachers, principals and superintendents who have taken that extra step and worked harder, improved their test scores and opened their arms and hearts to those who were affected by the storms. We should all live by this example. In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to the Madison Parish schools system and to Superintendent Michael Johnson for taking education seriously and improving their test scores while providing a safe, healthy learning environment for all children.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING ANN RICHARDS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise this morning on a very sad note for all of us who knew a very special, wonderful woman by the name of Governor Ann Richards. Last night she left this world, but she left behind a tremendous spirit that many of us will carry on. She was the kind of woman who could walk into a room and light it up, no matter where she was. She was a Governor of Texas, and I know that State knew and loved her well, but the rest of the country also loved her.

I was privileged to know this wonderful, compassionate human being. She made me laugh, she made me think, and she made me remember what I cared most about in this country. Her loss is a tragic one certainly for the State of Texas, certainly for the country, but absolutely for every one of us who knew her.

I know many people will be speaking throughout the next several days about the loss of Governor Richards, but I just wanted, on behalf of so many of us who cared for her so much, to express our condolences to all of her family, to her friends, to everyone who knew her, and to let them know that we will not forget and we will continue to carry her message of hope and passion as we continue in our lives.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, how much time do the Democrats have remaining?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 10 minutes remaining.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 4 minutes of that time, if I could.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to add to Senator MURRAY's heartfelt and beautiful tribute to Governor Ann

Richards. Many of us woke up this morning to read the newspaper and were stunned by the news that Governor Richards had passed away.

Many of us, of course, knew of her illness and that she struggled with it and fought it bravely, but I am not sure how many understood how close she was to death's door.

As a neighbor of hers who grew up right over the border from Texas, and as a young woman in the legislature, Ann Richards was at the top of the list of women I looked to early in my career. I did not have too many women to look to because there were just not that many women in public office in this country in 1976, the year when Governor Richards started her political career as Travis County Commissioner. There were 604 women in state legislatures nationwide. Not only was she an outstanding leader but she was an extraordinary administrator. I remember her days as State treasurer of Texas and followed many of her guidelines to leadership in trying to manage the budget of Texas. I followed that lead in trying to manage the budget of Louisiana. She showed that women could not only hold county commissioner seats, but high-level executive offices, managing finances and money. She became Governor of one of the largest States in America and served with extraordinary ability.

But more than just her service to the public at large, which was tremendous to the State of Texas and the country, Ann Richards encouraged women to think of things that had never been thought of before that women could to serve in corporate board rooms and as Governors and, hopefully, one day as President of the United States. And today, thanks to women like her, 1,686 women serve in state legislatures across the country. Without women such as Ann Richards, those dreams would never materialize or would be decades away.

There was a quote in the paper that I chuckled at because Governor Richards said once she didn't want to be remembered for keeping a clean house. She thought that women should be remembered for things greater than just how well they could vacuum how well they could cook or how well they could do things associated with the home.

While I do not in any way diminish the contribution that we make as wives and as mothers or diminish any of the things that we do inside of our homes that keep our families happy and keep our society going, I want to say emphatically that I agree with her. I hope women who are born and grow up today really think about what they want their tombstone to say.

Ann was always that kind of woman. She was born not only to be all a woman could be, but all a person could be, all a leader could be. Very few women in the generations that I am familiar with have accomplished that as well as she did. It is with great sadness that we recognize her passing, and I am

sure there will be a more formal recognition in the Senate Chamber among men and women remembering the contributions this extraordinary American made to our country, to the world, to women and girls everywhere.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EVERY PORT ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4954, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4954) to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer modified amendment No. 4930 to improve maritime container security by ensuring that foreign ports participating in the Container Security Initiative scan all containers shipped to the United States for nuclear and radiological weapons before loading.

Murray (for Stabenow) amendment No. 4967 to authorize grants for interoperable communications.

Nelson (NE) modified amendment No. 4945 to provide emergency agricultural disaster assistance.

DeMint amendment No. 4970 to prohibit the issuance of transportation security cards to individuals who have been convicted of certain crimes.

Clinton/Dole amendment No. 4957 to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information on and referral to human services, including volunteer opportunities related to human services.

Clinton amendment No. 4943 to fund additional research to improve the detection of explosive materials at airport security checkpoints.

Clinton/Schumer amendment No. 4958 to establish a grant program for individuals still suffering health effects as a result of the September 11, 2001, attacks in New York City.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour for debate equally divided in the usual form.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from Delaware.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. CARPER. I thank my colleagues for yielding.

Mr. President, earlier this week we all commemorated the fifth anniversary of 9/11. Much of that day was spent here and around the country discussing whether after 5 years we are safer and whether we are safe enough. While we have made real progress with respect to the security of our nuclear powerplants, with respect to airport security, far too little has been done to secure our Nation's seaports, railways, transit systems and, I might add, hundreds of chemical plants around this country.

After 9/11 we also recognized the need to protect our seaports. In 2002 we passed the Maritime Transportation Security Act, which was the start of developing a national and regional maritime security plan or plans. This legislation also required the Department of Homeland Security to help ports develop individual security plans and directed Customs and Border Protection to design a system for receiving information on ships' cargoes before they docked at a U.S. port.

Now, 4 years later, we are finally taking the next step. Still, port security has never received the same level of attention as airport security, and part of this is because 9/11 tragically exposed the vulnerabilities of our ports and it has been burned into our memories. I think it is also because most Americans do not have any direct interaction with a seaport on a daily basis, a weekly basis, a monthly basis or, in some cases, ever. However, a growing number of Americans have begun to recognize what an appealing target our seaports can be for terrorists.

First of all, many ports, including the ones we have in my State and the States of New Hampshire, Maine, and Washington, are located in or near densely populated urban areas. Also, ports are vital to the economy of our country. They are used by farmers to try to get their products to market and also industry to export products, but also we import everything from chemicals to oil and gas. As a result, many of us have concluded we must place a higher priority on addressing any vulnerability at our ports before any terrorist attack takes advantage of them. I applaud the work of Senator COLLINS and the great work Senator LIEBERMAN has done with her helping to craft this, and also the staffs and Senator MURRAY and her staff.

The American Association of Port Authorities believes that to do so will require roughly \$400 million a year for physical enhancements for ports in this country. The bill before us would authorize Congress to do just that.

Now, \$400 million is a lot of money, but it is significantly cheaper, I think we will agree, than responding to a devastating attack after the fact. My port, the Port of Wilmington, has received about \$2 million since 9/11. The State has provided a fair amount of money, as has our port authority. These funds have been used, in part, to