

I must observe this has been a painfully protracted process; it is a fact that what we've tried to accomplish for the last two-and-a-half months had once been considered a common-sense, bipartisan response to natural disasters. And the calls for offsets and a slower pace of funding in the wake of natural disasters are a recent phenomenon, even though previous Congresses quickly supported measures that provided relief to affected states.

For example, within two weeks of Hurricane Katrina, Congress provided \$70 billion in disaster funding to the Gulf Coast with great bipartisan support, and with virtually no discussion about how to pay for it. Congress recognized this was a major disaster, people were hurting, and it had to act to alleviate the suffering.

Congress, with bipartisan support, continued to appropriate emergency funds for various Katrina projects and activities totaling \$120 billion, all without payfors. For example, Congress funded \$1 billion to build a retractable seawall to protect New Orleans from rising storm surge. And it approved \$14 billion to rebuild and upgrade critical flood prevention infrastructure to minimize, or mitigate, the risk of such devastation occurring again. Why do New York and New Jersey deserve less urgency? And why are mitigation projects for New Orleans considered prudent, and mitigation projects for New York and New Jersey characterized as pork?

Mr. Speaker, our states are not asking for anything more than help to get back on their feet and rebuild. We are asking for nothing more than to respond to this disaster as we have for Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters that have wrought damage upon fellow Americans. I urge my colleagues to support this package without any damaging amendments.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 152, DISASTER RELIEF
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Disaster Relief Act. This bill brings much needed aid to the residents of central New Jersey.

I am concerned that several amendments to H.R. 152 would impair the ability of money in the bill to be spent wisely. The amended bill includes a provision that would block funding that enables coastal communities to develop mitigation plans for future hurricanes and other severe weather events. We should not be limiting NOAA's ability to forecast and respond to hurricanes in an emergency appropriations bill that is designed to respond to a hurricane.

I intended to offer to H.R. 152 an amendment that would have lifted the \$250,000 cap on Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) that can be used by towns and municipalities to finance critically need infrastructure projects. There are towns in my district that would benefit from upgrades to exist-

ing flood management infrastructure, yet are unable to afford the costs associated with these projects. Unfortunately, my amendment was not made in order by the House Leadership.

While I support strongly passage of H.R. 152, I want to reiterate that our fellow citizens affected by Hurricane Sandy have already waited far too long for help from Congress. In other natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, Congress acted swiftly, and aid reached those in need. And yet, the 112th Congress adjourned before passing a much-needed disaster relief package. The Senate had already acted to pass a well-constructed aid package bill. The only reason that this bill is not law today is that House leadership refused to act.

This devastating storm has left many people hurting in many different ways—shopkeepers, homeowners, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners—and has damaged the entire economy. H.R. 152 responds to this variety of needs and concerns. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN MEMORY OF CARMEN
WARSCHAU

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 18, 2013

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today, the people of California mourn the passing of a political legend of unsurpassed wit, a political leader of unyielding will, and a force for progress—for women, for Democrats, for our state and our country, Carmen Warschau.

Carmen believed in the power and promise of our democracy. She believed that politics was about people, that the political process should be a force for good, that elections should produce leaders of bold vision and strong values, courage and character. She believed all Americans bore a responsibility to participate, to vote, to make our voices heard. She believed we all had the ability and the obligation to make a difference—whether in a campaign, in our schools, or in our communities. And she never hesitated to act on her beliefs.

I was on the foundation of these principles that Carmen made her mark. It was on the basis of these values that Carmen built her legacy.

She left footprints on the lives and careers of countless political figures—as a fixture at every Democratic National Convention from 1948 to 2008; as the Democratic Party's Chairwoman in Southern California; as a power broker in state government. She was never afraid to go toe-to-toe with the most powerful people in our state, whether a governor or a state party chair. She would, in the words of her alma mater, always "fight on."

She was a pioneer. The daughter of immigrants, she became the first woman to lead the state's Fair Employment Practices Commission, standing firm for civil rights, equality, and justice for all.

She was a philanthropist to her core, investing in the causes of Los Angeles' Jewish com-

munity; supporting the state and people of Israel; endowing chairs and backing research at USC—the school where she met the love of her life, Louis.

She loved music and the arts, and was surrounded by them in her beautiful home. She loved sports, and could regularly be found on a hot summer day in her seat behind the home dugout at Dodger Stadium.

She was intensely loyal, fiercely independent, extraordinarily wise, and unabashedly proud of her heritage, her values, and her political activism. Indeed, it was only fitting that Carmen would pass away on November 6, 2012—Election Day. In characteristic fashion, she had already voted, leaving one last, indelible mark on history.

To borrow a phrase from Jewish tradition, Carmen Warschau was a "woman of valor." May she forever be an example of grace, passion, and commitment to all of us. May her memory be a blessing to all who knew her. May it be a comfort to her daughters, Hope and Susan, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her friends and loved ones to know that so many share in their grief at this time.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE
KENNEBEC VALLEY CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 18, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the 2013 Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Dinner. The Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business community of the Augusta area, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the region and the state.

Each year, the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include J.S. McCarthy Printers, recipient of Business of the Year; Peter E. Prescott, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award; Scott Bolduc, recipient of Business Person of the Year; Andy and Sheree Wess, recipients of the President's Award; Deborah Shepherd of the Family Violence Project, recipient of the Community Service Award; Mike Seitzinger, Esq., recipient of the Community Service Award; Randy and Teresa Hutchins of O'Connor Auto Group, recipient of the President's Award; and Laura Benedict of The Red Barn, recipient of the President's Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.