

**From:** "Kropp, Emily L."  
**To:** "Gerson, Michael J.", "Kavanaugh, Brett M."  
**Cc:** "Drouin, Lindsey E."  
**Subject:** FW: Annotated...  
**Sent:** Thu, 15 Sep 2005 06:29:47 -0500  
[NewOrleans15September2005#13ann.doc](#)

Mike -

Joe said that he didn't think the 82nd Airborne sentence was accurate. He said there are both civilian and military groups participating (incl. some military units and National Guard), not just 82nd Airborne. Also, the 82nd is not preparing the dead for their rest.

He is attending an HSC Principals meeting at 9am and said he would ask how the sentence can be worded at that meeting - because he thinks it's a good thing to say.

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**From:** Ward, Frank P.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 14, 2005 11:56 PM  
**To:** Kavanaugh, Brett M.; Gerson, Michael J.; McConnell, John P.; McGurn, William J.  
**Cc:** Carson, Melissa M.; Currin, John; Drouin, Lindsey E.; Kropp, Emily L.  
**Subject:** Annotated...

Issues

Page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, sentence: "And some very sad duties are being carried out by members of the 82nd Airborne who gather the dead, treat them with respect, and prepare them for their rest."

We were unable to find documentation for this. The DHS Sitrep #39 mentions the mortuary affair teams of 54<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company processing remaining of the dead.

Page 5, 1<sup>st</sup> full paragraph, Larry Johnson

There are numerous persons by the name of Larry Johnson in the New Orleans area, but one that has the correct age of the Larry Johnson discussed in the news article has been very critical of the President. (see vetting report in appendix). It is not possible to contact this Larry Johnson because he has been evacuated and we do not have contact information.

Bottom of Page 7, Top of Page 8, sentence: "We are the heirs of men and women who lived through those first terrible winters at Jamestown and Plymouth Rock ... who rebuilt Chicago after a great fire, and San Francisco after a great earthquake ... who reclaimed the prairie from the dust bowl of the 1930s."

The official name for the colony is Plymouth.

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Frank P. Ward, III  
The White House  
Office of Presidential Speechwriting  
EEOB 171  
Phone: (202) 456-6217

Hurricane Katrina  
Thursday, September 15, 2005  
Draft #13

Good evening. I am speaking to you from the city of New Orleans – nearly empty, still partly under water, and waiting for life and hope to return. Eastward from Lake Pontchartrain, across the Mississippi coast, to Alabama and into Florida, millions of lives were changed in a day by a cruel and wasteful storm.<sup>1</sup>

In the aftermath, we have seen fellow citizens left stunned and uprooted ... searching for loved ones, and grieving for the dead ... and looking for meaning in a tragedy that seems so blind and random. We have also witnessed the kind of desperation no citizen of this great and generous Nation should ever have to know – fellow Americans calling out for food and water ... vulnerable people left at the mercy of criminals who had no mercy ... and the bodies of the dead lying uncovered and untended in the street.

These days of sorrow and outrage have also been marked by acts of courage and kindness that make all Americans proud. Coast Guard personnel rescued more than 33 thousand people from flooded neighborhoods.<sup>2</sup> Religious congregations and families have welcomed strangers as brothers and sisters and neighbors. In the community of Chalmette,<sup>3</sup> when two thieves tried to break into a man's home, he invited them to stay – and took in 15 other people who had no place to go.<sup>4</sup> At Tulane Hospital for Children,

<sup>1</sup> "An **estimated 9.7 million people living in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi experienced hurricane force winds as Katrina crashed into the Gulf Coast earlier this week**, the U.S. Census Bureau reported today." Census Bureau, News Release, "Census Bureau Estimates Nearly 10 Million Residents Along Gulf Coast Hit by Hurricane Katrina," September 2, 2005 ([http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/hurricanes\\_tropical\\_storms/005673.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/hurricanes_tropical_storms/005673.html))

<sup>2</sup> Through today, there have been **33,528 individuals** rescued via all modes by the United States Coast Guard. Source: USCG SitRep #28, para 3.B.5. Information provided by Kirstjen Nielsen, HSC, (X62302)

<sup>3</sup> *Note: Terry Hendrix's house is located on Riverland Drive in Chalmette. Terry Ray Hendrix, 3200 RIVERLAND DR, CHALMETTE, LA 70043 (Person Locator, Nexis).* The News article, dateline "CHALMETTE, La" mentions "his home on Riverland Street" "Dave Michaels, "New Orleans man keeps 18 alive for 6 days," *The Dallas Morning News*, September 3, 2005 (Nexis).

<sup>4</sup> "**The first two men who sought refuge in Terry Hendrix's house were thieves who broke a window to get in. Mr. Hendrix never made them leave. Fifteen more people arrived and stayed for six days, crowded in the top floor of his home, just above the water line.** Together with Mr. Hendrix, a retired New Orleans firefighter, they weathered the worst disaster in the nation's history in a devastated



<sup>5</sup> doctors and nurses didn't eat for days so patients could have food,<sup>6</sup> and eventually carried the patients on their backs up eight flights of stairs to helicopters.<sup>7</sup> Many first responders were victims themselves – wounded healers, with a sense of duty greater than their own suffering. When I met Steve Scott of the Biloxi Fire Department, he and his colleagues were conducting a house-to-house search for survivors.<sup>8</sup> Steve told me this: "I lost my house and I lost my cars, but I still got my family ... and I still got my spirit."<sup>9</sup>

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city that received almost no federal aid until Saturday. Dave Michaels, "New Orleans man keeps 18 alive for 6 days," *The Dallas Morning News*, September 3, 2005 (Nexis).

<sup>5</sup> "Kim Graham said she had to deal with looters and snipers while helping her patients last week in New Orleans. Graham, a registered nurse, said she and her colleagues evacuated 200 patients, including critically ill infants, children and adults, **at the Tulane Hospital for Children** from what she described as a "war zone" in downtown New Orleans...." Sylvain Metz, "Tulane hospital workers exhibited heroism in storm: Medical staff trying to move patients faced gunfire, looters," *The Clarion Ledger*, September 7, 2005 (<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050907/NEWS0110/509070371>)

<sup>6</sup>Patients were carried through water and up eight flights of stairs to the helicopter, which sat on top of the parking garage. To complicate the evacuation, Smithburg said some people who were homeless but not patients also made their way up to the eighth floor and had to be restrained from rushing into the helicopter. **"Some of the staff didn't eat or drink for days so the patients could survive,"** he said. "Then they carried people to safety again and again. There was real heroism here." Sylvain Metz, "Tulane hospital workers exhibited heroism in storm: Medical staff trying to move patients faced gunfire, looters," *The Clarion Ledger*, September 7, 2005 (<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050907/NEWS0110/509070371>)

<sup>7</sup>**"Patients were carried through water and up eight flights of stairs to the helicopter, which sat on top of the parking garage.** To complicate the evacuation, Smithburg said some people who were homeless but not patients also made their way up to the eighth floor and had to be restrained from rushing into the helicopter. "Some of the staff didn't eat or drink for days so the patients could survive," he said. "Then they carried people to safety again and again. There was real heroism here." Sylvain Metz, "Tulane hospital workers exhibited heroism in storm: Medical staff trying to move patients faced gunfire, looters," *The Clarion Ledger*, September 7, 2005 (<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050907/NEWS0110/509070371>)

<sup>8</sup> Information provided by Blake Gottesman, Office of the President, (X61414).

<sup>9</sup> "yesterday, the president met capt steve scott of the biloxi fire department. capt scott told the president "i lost my house and i lost my cars, but ... [[proudly/resolutely]] i still got my family ... and i still got my spirit\*" (despite his own personal loss, capt scott was suited up in his fire gear and going house to house w/ the other biloxi fd personnel when the president met him.) \*note: the spirit line came with some leading by the president. scott: "... got my family" potus: "... and you still got your spirit" scott: "yeah, and i still got my spirit" Blake Gottesman to William McGurn, et al, September 3, 2005 (e-mail). Information confirmed by Captain Steve Scott, (228) 392-0641, in a telephone conversation with Melissa Carson, Speechwriting, September 4, 2005.



Across the Gulf Coast, among people who have lost much, and suffered much, and given to the limit of their power, we are seeing the same spirit: a core of strength that survives all hurt ... a faith in God no storm can take away ... and a powerful American determination to clear the ruins and build better than before.

Tonight so many victims of the hurricane and the flood are far from home and friends and familiar things. You need to know that our whole Nation cares about you – and in the journey ahead you are not alone. To all who carry a burden of loss, I extend the deepest sympathy of our country. To every person who has served and sacrificed in this emergency, I offer the gratitude of our country. And tonight I also offer this pledge of the American people: All along the Gulf Coast, throughout the area hit by the hurricane, we will do whatever it takes, and stay as long as it takes, to help citizens rebuild their communities and their lives. And all who question the future of the Crescent City need to know: There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans, and this great city will rise again.

The work of rescue is largely finished; the work of recovery is moving forward. In nearly all of Mississippi, electric power has been restored.<sup>10</sup> Trade is starting to return to the Port of New Orleans,<sup>11</sup> and agricultural shipments are moving down the Mississippi River.<sup>12</sup> All major gas pipelines are now in operation, preventing the supply disruptions that many feared.<sup>13</sup> The breaks in the levees have been closed,<sup>14</sup> the pumps are running, and

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<sup>10</sup> As of September 14, 2005, 1100 hrs, 80,528 customers in Mississippi were still without power. DHS HURRICANE KATRINA DHS SITREP # 39, Wednesday, September 14, 2005, 1800 hrs, p.3.

<sup>11</sup>“The Port of New Orleans opened today to commercial traffic. The Captain of the Port of New Orleans has reviewed the preliminary surveys completed on the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) and has reopened the entire waterway to vessels with drafts of 22 feet or less. The Inner Harbor Navigational Canal (Industrial Canal) is still shut down.” Source: 2:00 PM DOE sit rep. Information provided by Kirstjen Nielsen, HSC, (X62302)

<sup>12</sup> DHS could not specifically confirm that agricultural shipments are going down the Mississippi River. Information provided by Kirstjen Nielsen, HSC, (X62302)

<sup>13</sup> “While the Colonial and Plantation petroleum product pipelines are back up and able to run at 100 percent of capacity, supplying the pipelines with products may become an issue as long as some of the refineries that supply product into these pipelines remain shut down. The Capline, a major crude oil pipeline that supplies crude oil from the Gulf Coast to some Midwest refineries, is now operating at more than 90 percent of its capacity.” Energy Information Agency, “Hurricane Katrina's Impact on the U.S. Oil and Natural Gas Markets,” September 13, 2005 ([http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/special/eia1\\_katrina.html](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/special/eia1_katrina.html)) [Unable to access EIA website for update]

<sup>14</sup> “General:



the water here in New Orleans is receding by the hour.<sup>15</sup> Environmental officials are on the ground, taking water samples,<sup>16</sup> identifying and dealing

- Levee Inspection team making assessments of damage, stability and other engineering considerations – the program is on-going and integral to our response and recovery operations.
- The USACE developed a draft plan including a list of priorities and schedule of levee repairs.
- 27 breaches have been identified.
  - 19 hurricane caused.
  - 8 intentional (as part of unwatering operation).
- 12 interim repairs have been completed.
- Interim Repairs to 3 major breached levees in Plaquemines Parish are underway.” DHS HURRICANE KATRINA DHS SITREP # 38, Wednesday, September 14, 2005, 0600 hrs, p.9.

<sup>15</sup>“**Plaquemines Parish**

- The northernmost breach near Bellevue is now closed and pumping in the area has begun.
- The contractor's plans for the other two breaches are to use a stone dike at the Shell Pipeline and a combination of sheet pile and sandbags at Sunrise Pump Station, where more sandbags were delivered last night.

**St. Bernard Parish**

- Response teams report that the canals will be free of oil in the next seven days and have requested that we not operate Pump Stations 4 and 7 until then.
- Flood waters dropped an estimated six inches overall in the vicinity of Pump Station 8, which operated with two pumps today. The water level should drop even faster once filters arrive for the third pump.

**East Orleans Parish**

- Total capacity at Pump Station 15 and the Hydrogen Plant increased to 800 cfs. Two 42-inch portable pumps came online today to offset the temporary loss of two portable pumps that were previously operating. One pump was down because of electrical issues and the other was unavailable today. We're working on repairing one of the 42-inch pumps and also repairing the two pumps that are down as a result of transferring from a different location. This will lead to a flow rate of 1,100 cfs.
- Water levels were measured to be exactly 17 inches at the deepest point along the route from highway 90 to the Air Products plant during a route recon conducted on 8:00 AM 9/12. In the past 24 hours. At the current pumping level, we expect water levels to drop an additional 8 inches by 9/14. Accordingly, the water levels at the plant will be low enough for recovery to begin on 9/15.

**Orleans Parish**

- Electrical repairs at Pump Station 1 continue and the pump will be operational in the next 36 hours. Once operating, the station will feed more water to the 17th Street Canal through Pump Station 6, which is operating at 1,200 feet because of the lowered flow.
- Pumping in St. Bernard Parish is helping to drain the water out of the Orleans Parish's Ninth Ward and the water is drawing down quickly.

The road to the second breach at London Avenue Canal was lengthened by 700 feet. 1,500 feet remain and the road will be completed in two days.” DHS HURRICANE KATRINA DHS SITREP # 39, Wednesday, September 14, 2005, 1800 hrs, p.9.

<sup>16</sup> Kenneth Rapuano, HSC, based on conversation with Steve Johnson, EPA Administrator, reported that “EPA, HHS and CDC, in partnership with LA, MS, AL State and local authorities, are pursuing a multipronged approach to address a series of environmental issues: a) dealing with large quantities of debris, some of which is contaminated and extremely hazardous; b) **are continuing to sample and evaluate lake, river, and flood waters**, and sediment for hazardous substances; c) are assisting State and local utilities in getting their drinking water and waste water treatment systems operational (100s of these systems in the greater NO area are currently not operational).” Kenneth Rapuano to Michael Gerson, September 14, 2005 (e-mail).



with hazardous debris,<sup>17</sup> and working to get drinking water and waste water systems operating again.<sup>18</sup> And some very sad duties are being carried out by members of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne who gather the dead, treat them with respect, and prepare them for their rest.<sup>19</sup>

In the task of recovery and rebuilding, some of the hardest work is still ahead – and it will require the creative skill and generosity of a united country.

Our first commitment is to meet the immediate needs of those who had to flee their homes and leave all their possessions behind. For these Americans, every night brings uncertainty, every day requires new courage, and the months to come will bring more than their fair share of struggles.

The Department of Homeland Security is registering evacuees who are now in shelters, churches, or private homes – whether in the Gulf region or far away. I have signed an order providing immediate assistance

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<sup>19</sup> **“82nd Airborne Division, 1st Cavalry Division, I and II Marine Expeditionary Force conducting humanitarian assistance , search and rescue, evacuation and security assessments.**

- FEMA requested DOD perform all aspects of the mortuary affairs mission until another contractor can be found. The Secretary of Defense approved the deployment of 9 teams from the 54th Quartermaster Company Fort Lee, VA.

- **9 mortuary affairs teams from the 54th Quartermaster Company arrived at New Orleans Airport at 12:30 PM on 9/13. The 9 teams can process 20 remains per day per team for a total of 180 per day. The 54th will deploy an additional 9 teams to New Orleans brining the total capacity to 360 remains per day.** DHS HURRICANE KATRINA DHS SITREP # 39, Wednesday, September 14, 2005, 1800 hrs, p.19.



to people from the disaster area. As of today, [more than 400 thousand] evacuee families have gotten emergency help to pay for food, clothing, and other essentials.<sup>20</sup> I urge all evacuees who have not yet registered to call this number – 1-800-621-FEMA.<sup>21</sup> We need to know who you are, because many of you will also be eligible for broader assistance in the future, to help you get back on your feet.

In addition, we are taking steps to ensure that evacuees don't have to travel great distances or navigate bureaucracies to get the benefits that are there for them. The Department of Health and Human Services has been sending in medical teams along with vaccines, antibiotics, and medicines for people with chronic conditions such as diabetes.<sup>22</sup> The Social Security Administration is delivering checks.<sup>23</sup> The Department of Labor is helping displaced persons apply for temporary jobs and unemployment benefits.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>20</sup> "FEMA has distributed nearly \$965.8 million in federal aid to **more than 430,000 households**. Families temporarily residing in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are receiving assistance in a streamlined process to urgently expedite these payments of \$2,000 per household to help pay for the emergency needs of food, shelter, clothing, personal necessities and medical needs." Department of Homeland Security, "Emergencies and Disasters, "Hurricane Katrina: What Government Is Doing," September 13, 2005 (<http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/katrina.htm>)

<sup>21</sup> "Individuals in declared counties can register online for disaster assistance at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or call FEMA's toll free registration line at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)." Department of Homeland Security, "Emergencies and Disasters, "Hurricane Katrina: What Government Is Doing," September 13, 2005 (<http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/katrina.htm>)

<sup>22</sup> "HHS continues to ship pallets of basic first aid materials and supplies to the area, and the Centers for Disease Control and Food and Drug Administration are augmenting state and local public health resources – including chemical and toxicology teams, sanitation and public health teams, epidemiology teams and food safety teams." Department of Homeland Security, "Emergencies and Disasters, "Hurricane Katrina: What Government Is Doing," September 13, 2005 (<http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/katrina.htm>)

<sup>23</sup> "The Social Security Administration has issued 30,000 checks to evacuees who are not able to receive their monthly benefits, whether by mail or direct deposit. Beneficiaries can go to any open Social Security office and receive an immediate payment by check that replaces the full amount of their Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment. Social Security is providing immediate payments and other vital services to the affected areas and to evacuees in other locations through temporary offices at evacuation centers, and FEMA Family Assistance Centers." Department of Homeland Security, "Emergencies and Disasters, "Hurricane Katrina: What Government Is Doing," September 13, 2005 (<http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/katrina.htm>)

<sup>24</sup> "Department of Labor - has three programs to offer immediate income assistance to workers displaced by Hurricane Katrina 1) Unemployment Insurance for workers who lost their jobs because of Hurricane Katrina; 2) Disaster Unemployment Insurance for the newly employed and self-employed not normally eligible for unemployment insurance and, 3) Temporary jobs funded through National Emergency Grants.



And the Postal Service is registering new addresses so that people can get their mail.<sup>25</sup>

To carry out the first stages of the relief effort and begin the rebuilding at once, I have asked for, and the Congress has provided, more than 60 billion dollars<sup>26</sup> – an unprecedented response to an unprecedented crisis, demonstrating the compassion and resolve of our nation.

Our second commitment is to help the citizens of the Gulf Coast to overcome this disaster, put their lives back together, and rebuild their communities. Along this coast – for mile after mile and inland for hundreds of yards – the wind and water swept the land clean. In Mississippi, an estimated [x] houses were damaged or destroyed. In New Orleans and surrounding parishes, nearly half a million houses are no longer inhabitable. Hundreds of thousands of people from across this region will need to find longer-term housing.<sup>27</sup>

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For information on how to access these benefits, individuals can call DOL's national toll free number: 1-866-4-USA-DOL (1-866-487-2365). For those able to access the internet, information can also be found on DOL's website ([www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)). DOL has also dispatched teams to all evacuee sites, and has staff canvassing neighborhoods, churches, parishes and hospitals to advertise these benefits. Mobile "One-Stop" vans have been deployed to FEMA sites, including one in the parking lot of the Houston Astrodome. DOL has created the Katrina Recovery Job Connection, a new resource focused on supporting the transition back into employment for individuals impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The site's purpose is to connect job seekers with employers interested in hiring them for either new permanent employment or for jobs related to the cleanup, recovery and rebuilding process in hurricane-impacted areas. While the site is intended to complement the efforts at the state and local level to connect workers and jobs in the impacted areas, it is also intended to make individuals evacuated to other states aware of opportunities in their home state. Both employers and job seekers are encouraged to visit the site to post and view listings of available jobs." Department of Homeland Security, "Emergencies and Disasters, "Hurricane Katrina: What Government Is Doing," September 13, 2005 (<http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/katrina.htm>)

<sup>25</sup> "The U.S. Postal Service continues to reconnect Gulf Coast residents with their mail, now providing full delivery service to some 82 percent of residents and businesses affected by Hurricane Katrina. More than 98,000 households of affected residents have filed a Change of Address. Also during the last week, the Postal Service has distributed more than 20,000 Social Security checks to residents at mobile locations in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama." Department of Homeland Security, "Emergencies and Disasters, "Hurricane Katrina: What Government Is Doing," September 13, 2005 (<http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/katrina.htm>)

<sup>26</sup> Friday, September 2, 2005 the President signed into law H.R. 3645, the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005" that provides \$10.5 Billion to aid victims of Katrina. On Thursday, September 8, 2005, the President signed into law H.R. 3673, the "Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005" that provides \$51.8 Billion to aid victims of Katrina.

<sup>27</sup> The source for this information is Brad Gair, Director for the Housing Area Command in Baton Rouge. The HAC reports to DHS FEMA HDQ. The number is a rough estimate based on analysis of national



Our goal is to get people out of shelters by the middle of October. So we are providing direct assistance to evacuees that allow them to rent apartments, and many are already moving into places of their own. Many states have taken in evacuees and shown them great compassion – admitting children to school, and providing health care. So I will work with Congress to ensure that states are reimbursed for these extra expenses.

In the disaster area – and in cities that have received huge numbers of displaced people – we are beginning to bring in mobile homes and trailers for temporary use.<sup>28</sup> To relieve the burden on local health care facilities in the region, we are sending extra doctors and nurses to these areas.<sup>29</sup> We are also providing money that can be used to cover overtime pay for police and fire departments while cities and towns rebuild.<sup>30</sup>

[There is an urgent need for housing near New Orleans, Biloxi, and other cities to meet the needs of police and firefighters, other service providers, and the many workers who are going to rebuild those cities. Right now, thousands are sleeping on ships we have brought to the Port of Orleans.<sup>31</sup> And we stand ready to build mobile home communities, and supply them with basic services, as close to the construction areas as

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geospatial-intelligence agency imagery. An exact number cannot be obtained until all of the areas are accessible and housing inspectors can be deployed. Information provided by Kirstjen Nielsen, HSC. (X62302)

<sup>28</sup> LA, MS, AL, TX: **Total in route and ready to deploy: 19,993 travel trailers and 1872 mobile homes** LA, MS, AL: **1460 travel trailers are at their final destination.** (As of 9/14/05) Information provided by Kirstjen Nielsen, HSC, (X62302)

<sup>29</sup> **Per the 6:00 AM DHS sit rep, 227 public health professionals have been deployed by CDC. There are 450 medical personnel deployed as part of the National Disaster Medical System who have treated 15,616 patients.** Information provided by Kirstjen Nielsen, HSC, (X62302)

<sup>30</sup> "FEMA is providing over \$200 million in Public Assistance grants to Louisiana for "emergency protective measures." These grants are intended to cover many state and local response costs to date, including overtime pay for local police and fire departments as a result of Katrina. Similar grants will be provided to Mississippi and Alabama, but the amounts have not been reported. Information provided by Doug Pitkin, OMB (X53025).

<sup>31</sup> According to the Housing Area Command, there are NO ships in Biloxi. **There are two cruise ships in New Orleans with 3366 occupants with room for a total occupancy of 5200.** A third ship is now in Mobile Bay and will be in MS within 24-48 hours when the Pascagoula Port in MS is open and will have room for 1800 MS evacuees on the ship. A fourth ship is in Tampa and is being considered for movement to St. Bernard Parish if port is considered safe and 1000 evacuees can be housed there. Information provided by Kirstjen Nielsen, HSC, (X62302)



possible, so the rebuilding process can go forward as quickly as possible.<sup>32]</sup>

And the Federal government will undertake a close partnership with the states of Louisiana and Mississippi, the city of New Orleans, and other Gulf Coast cities, so they can rebuild in a sensible, well planned way. Federal funds will cover the great majority of the costs of repairing public infrastructure in the disaster zone, from roads and bridges to schools and water systems. We will see to it that work is done quickly, and a team of inspectors general will ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

In the rebuilding process, there will be many important decisions and many details to resolve, yet we are moving forward according to some clear principles. The Federal government will be fully engaged in the mission, but state and local officials and civic leaders will have the primary role in planning for their own future. Clearly, communities will need to move decisively to change zoning laws and building codes, in order to avoid a repeat of what we've seen. And in the work of rebuilding, as many jobs as possible should go to men and women who live in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Our third commitment is this: when communities are rebuilt, they must be even better and stronger than before the storm. Within the Gulf region are some of the most beautiful and historic places in America. This region also has some of the deepest, most persistent poverty in our country.<sup>33</sup> And that poverty has deep roots in a cruel history of racial

<sup>32</sup> Language cleared by Kirstjen Nielsen, HSC, (X62302)

<sup>33</sup> According to new data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, about 2.1 million people in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi lived below the poverty level:

Alabama:

- **More than 16 percent of Alabamians live in poverty (706,070).**
- **Additionally, almost 88,200 residents of the Mobile metro area live in poverty (16 percent).**

Louisiana:

- **One-in-five Louisiana residents (19.36 percent) live in poverty.**
- **Nearly 200,000 people (194,800) in the New Orleans metro area live in poverty.**
- **One-in-four residents of the city of New Orleans (23.2 percent) live in poverty.**

Mississippi:

- **More than one-in-five Mississippi residents (21.61 percent) live in poverty, or about 603,954.**
- **More than 16 percent of residents in the Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula metro area live in**

**poverty.**

Census Bureau, News Release, "Census Bureau Estimates Nearly 10 Million Residents Along Gulf Coast Hit by Hurricane Katrina," September 2, 2005 ([http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/hurricanes\\_tropical\\_storms/005673.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/hurricanes_tropical_storms/005673.html))



discrimination, which cut off generations from the opportunity of America. We have a duty to overcome this history of injustice with bold action in the cause of justice. So let us restore all that we have cherished from yesterday, and let us rise above the legacy of poverty and inequality. When the streets are rebuilt, there should be many new businesses, including minority-owned businesses, along those streets. When houses are rebuilt, more families should own those houses. When the regional economy revives, local people should be prepared for the jobs being created. Americans want the Gulf Shore not just to survive, but to thrive ... not just to cope, but to overcome. We want evacuees to come home, for the best reasons – because they have a real chance at a better life in a place they love.

Larry Johnson<sup>34</sup> of New Orleans saw his house disappear under the flood waters. When a reporter asked him if he would relocate, he said, “Naw, I will rebuild – but I will build higher.”<sup>35</sup> That is our vision of the future, in this city and beyond: we will not just rebuild, we will build higher and better.

To meet this goal, I will listen to good ideas from Congress, state and local officials, and the private sector. I believe we should start with three initiatives that I will submit to the House and Senate.

Tonight I propose the creation of a Gulf Opportunity Zone, encompassing the region of the disaster in Louisiana and Mississippi. Within this zone, we should provide immediate incentives for job-creating investment ... significant tax relief for small businesses ... incentives to

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<sup>34</sup> See Appendix, “Vetting Results, Larry Johnson”

<sup>35</sup> “The proximity of Lake Pontchartrain poised a continued menace to both Metairie and nearby Kenner, and with no electricity for miles around, many displaced residents faced a long night filled with discomfort and uncertainty. **“There is no where to go,” lamented Larry Johnson, a 55-year-old call-center operator who procrastinated until Sunday evening before finally heeding the mandatory evacuation order issued by state and municipal officials.** “They said on the radio that the storm was over, but now I wish I had stayed in Lafayette.” Like Garcia, **Johnson is a New Orleans native who has also seen his fair share of natural calamities. Would he relocate, I asked the bearded and slightly bewildered Johnson. “Naw, I will rebuild,” he shot back. “But I’ll build higher.”** Joe Contreras, Newsweek, ‘Worst I’ve Ever Seen’ Reporter’s notebook: Suburban residents of New Orleans trying to return home on Monday were stopped by flooded communities and fears of the aftermath.” (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9120790/site/newsweek/>)



companies that create jobs ... and loan guarantees for small businesses, including minority-owned enterprises, to get them up and running again.

I propose the creation of Worker Recovery Accounts to help those evacuees who need extra help finding work. Under this plan, the federal government would provide accounts of up to five thousand dollars, which evacuees could draw upon for job training and education at community colleges to help them get a good job ... and for child care expenses once they find work.

To help lower-income citizens in the hurricane region to build new and better lives, I also propose that Congress pass an Urban Homesteading Act. Under this approach, we will identify property in the region owned by the federal government, and provide building sites to low-income citizens free of charge, through a lottery. In return, they would pledge to build on the lot, with either a mortgage or help from an organization like Habitat for Humanity. Home ownership is one of the great strengths of any community, and it must be a central part of our vision for the revival of this region.

In the long run, the New Orleans area has a particular challenge, because much of the city lies below sea level. The people who call it home need to have reassurance that their lives will be safer in the years to come. Protecting a city that sits lower than the water around it is not easy – but it can and has been done. City and parish officials in New Orleans, and state officials in Louisiana, will have a large part in the engineering decisions to come – and the Army Corps of Engineers will work at their side to make the flood protection system stronger than it has ever been.

The work that has begun in the Gulf Coast region will be one of the largest reconstruction efforts the world has ever seen. When that job is done, all Americans will have something to be very proud of – and all Americans are needed in this common effort. It is the armies of compassion – charities and houses of worship and idealistic men and women – that give our reconstruction effort its humanity. They offer to those who hurt a friendly face, an arm around the shoulder, and the reassurance that in hard times, they can count on someone who cares. By land, by sea, and by air, good people wanting to make a difference deployed to the Gulf Coast – and they have been working around the clock ever since.



Over the last two weeks, Americans have given generously to groups like these. For example, the private fundraising effort led by former Presidents Clinton and Bush has already received pledges of more than 80 million dollars.<sup>36</sup> Some of that money is going to governors, to be used for immediate needs within their states. A portion will also be sent to local churches, to help reimburse them for the expense of helping others. This evening the need is still great, and I ask the American people to continue donating to the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, other good charities, and churches in the region.

It is also essential for the many organizations of our country to reach out to your fellow citizens in the Gulf area. So I have asked USA Freedom Corps to create an information clearing house, available at [usafreedomcorps.gov](http://usafreedomcorps.gov), so that families anywhere in the country can find opportunities to help families in the region ... or a school can adopt a school. And I challenge existing organizations – churches, Scout troops, or labor union locals to get in touch with their counterparts in Mississippi, Louisiana, or Alabama, and learn what they can do to help. In this great national enterprise, important work can be done by everyone, and everyone should find their role and do their part.

The government of this nation will do its part as well. Our cities must have clear and up-to-date plans for responding to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or terrorist attack ... for evacuating large numbers of people in an emergency ... and for providing the food, water, and security they would need. In a time of terror threats and weapons of mass destruction, the danger to our citizens reaches much wider than a fault line or a flood plain. I consider detailed emergency planning to be a national security priority. Therefore, I have ordered the Department of Homeland Security to undertake an immediate review, in cooperation with local counterparts, of emergency plans in every major city in America.

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<sup>36</sup> **“Kathy Wills from Freedom Corps called to fill in the below line. She said Presidents Bush and Clinton have raised "more than 80 million dollars."** She said there's a difference between what has been pledged to what is actually in the bank - but the figure that the presidents have used - and that Freedom Corps uses - is the 80 million dollars. She said "collected" should be changed to something like "pledged" because all 80 million is not in the bank yet. She will update us if any big pledges come in that would increase the figure." Information provided by Kathy Wills via Lindsey Drouin, Speechwriting (X62769)



I also want to know all the facts about the government response to Hurricane Katrina. Congress is preparing an investigation, and I will work with members of both parties to make sure this effort is thorough.

The storm involved a massive flood, a major supply and security operation, and an evacuation order affecting more than a million people. It was not a normal hurricane – and the normal disaster relief system was not equal to it. Many of the men and women of the Coast Guard, FEMA, Homeland Security, and state and local governments performed skillfully under the worst conditions. Yet the system, at every level of government, was poorly coordinated and overwhelmed in the first few days. Four years after the frightening experience of September 11<sup>th</sup>, Americans have every right to expect a more effective response in a time of emergency. When the federal government fails to meet such an obligation, I as President am responsible for the problem, and for the solution. It is clear that a challenge on this scale, over so wide an area, requires greater federal authority and a broader role for the armed forces – the one institution of our government capable of massive logistical operations on a moment's notice. This government will learn the lessons of Hurricane Katrina. We are going to review every action and make every necessary change, so that we are fully prepared for any challenge of nature, or act of evil men, that could threaten our people.

In the life of this nation, we have often been reminded that nature is an awesome force, and that all life is fragile. We are the heirs of men and women who lived through those first terrible winters at Jamestown<sup>37</sup> and Plymouth<sup>38</sup> Rock ... who rebuilt Chicago after a great fire,<sup>39</sup> and San

<sup>37</sup> "Starving Time is the term applied to the winter of 1609-1610 at the Jamestown settlement. By spring 1610, only 60 of the 215 settlers remained alive. Research by the Jamestown Recovery Project, which began in 1994, indicates a severe drought in 1609 caused crop failures and poor harvests. Indian depredations and disease also contributed to the deaths. The arrival of a supply fleet in May 1610 saved the colony. The term has also been applied to the Plymouth Colony in spring 1622." Dictionary of American History, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., Volume 7, Stanley I. Kutler, Editor-in-Chief, Thomson Gale, New York, 2003.

<sup>38</sup> "The first Puritan emigrants consisted of 102 Separatists, subsequently called the Pilgrims. In 1620 they crossed the Atlantic in the ship *Mayflower* to found a town named Plymouth on the south shore of Massachusetts Bay. Beneficiaries of a devastating epidemic that had recently decimated the coastal Indians, the Plymouth colonists occupied an abandoned village with conveniently cleared fields. In 1620-21, a long, hard, starving winter killed half of the newcomers, but thereafter good crops and more emigrants from England stabilized and strengthened the colony. By 1630 about fifteen hundred English dwelled in the Plymouth colony." *American Colonies*, Alan Taylor, Viking Press, New York, 2001.

**Rebuilding has actively commenced. The Chamber of Commerce have struck their first blow, and will restore a massive exchange building to their corner of Lasalle and Washington streets. MATT LAFLIN and his energetic sons were putting things to rights for eighteen stores to be put up this**



Francisco after a great earthquake<sup>40</sup> ... who reclaimed the prairie from the dust bowl of the 1930s.<sup>41</sup> Every time, the people of this land have come

"The Chicago Fire," October 15, 1871 ProQuest Historical Newspapers, The New York Times (1851-2001), pg. 1.



**T** WAS on the morning of April 18, 1906, just one year ago last Thursday, that San Francisco was overtaken by earthquake and fire and practically destroyed. Shortly after the catastrophe there was organized the San Francisco Relief and Red Cross Funds, a corporation empowered to receive and disburse the moneys coming from all quarters in aid of the refugees.

The Land and Building Department of this corporation is at present winding up its affairs, after a year's remarkably economical and effective work. A retrospect of the labors of the department forms an interesting chapter in the history of the great disaster. There have been built in the public squares of San Francisco a total of 5,938 refugee cottages. Of these, 4,168 were of three rooms each and 1,770 were of two rooms. In addition to this work the department erected nineteen tenements at South Park, having a capacity of 328 two-room cottages. And finally the building of a permanent structure for the Home for the Aged and Infirm has been undertaken on the Almshouse Tract. This building is nearing completion, and will be finished before the Land and Building Department formally goes out of existence.

<sup>40</sup>

"Nearly 6,000 Refugee Cottages Built in the Public Squares of the City—A Bonus Fund Which Aided Lot Owners to Erect Homes for Themselves—Work Nearly Ended," April 21, 1907, ProQuest Historical Newspapers, The New York Times (1851-2001), SM4.

<sup>41</sup> "With no ground cover to hold down the desiccated soil, dozens of extraordinarily severe dust storms occurred every year throughout the 1930s, giving the region a new name: the Dust Bowl... In the face of such stark proof that the frontier dream of abundance had given way to scarcity and despair, government officials stepped in to offer expert technical assistance with their new techniques of integrated regional planning. The Forest Service organized the planting of over two hundred million



back from fire, flood, and storm to build anew – and to build better than what we had before. Americans have never left our destiny to the whims of nature – and we will not start now.

These trials have also reminded us that we are often stronger than we know – with the help of grace and one another. They remind us of a hope beyond all pain and death – a God who welcomes the lost to a house not made with hands. And they remind us that we are tied together in this life, in this nation – and that the despair of any touches us all.

I know that when you sit on the steps of a porch where a home once stood ... or sleep on a cot in a crowded shelter ... it is hard to imagine a bright future. But that future will come. The streets of Bixoli and Gulfport will again be filled with lovely homes and the sound of children playing. The churches of Alabama will have their broken steeples mended and their congregations whole. And here in New Orleans, the street cars will once again rumble down St. Charles,<sup>42</sup> and the passionate soul of a great city will return.

In this place, there is a custom for the funerals of jazz musicians. The funeral procession parades slowly through the streets, followed by a band playing a mournful dirge as it moves to the cemetery.<sup>43</sup> Once the

trees to form “shelter belts” that would supposedly discourage soil from blowing. The Soil Conservation Service (a New Deal creation of the Franklin Roosevelt administration) promoted new techniques of contour plowing and dry tillage to discourage erosion and retain soil moisture more effectively...If settlement patterns and land-use practices could be rationalized, abundance and prosperity could be restored even to so troubled a landscape as the Dust Bowl. In the end, the return of the rains in the early 1940s—and the increasing use of fossil groundwater from the immense Ogallala Aquifer for irrigation—made the dust storms seem like a passing nightmare that technology and better management could prevent in the future.” *The Oxford History of The American West*, Edited by Clyde A. Milner II, Carol A. O'Connor, Martha A. Sandweiss, Oxford University Press, New York/Oxford, 1994.

<sup>42</sup> “New Orleans historic St. Charles Streetcar travels over 13 miles from Canal Street, through the Garden district, past Loyola and Tulane Universities and Audubon Park where it takes a right-hand turn at Riverbend to continue up Carrollton Avenue.” New Orleans, St. Charles Streetcar, Ride New Orleans National Historic Landmark through the Garden District ([http://www.inetours.com/New\\_Orleans/St\\_Charles\\_Streetcar.html](http://www.inetours.com/New_Orleans/St_Charles_Streetcar.html))

<sup>43</sup> “In a traditional jazz funeral, the band meets at the church or funeral parlor where the dismissal services are being conducted. After the service, the band leads the procession slowly through the neighborhood. In a recent film, *Jazz Funeral: From the Inside*, Milton Batiste, the lead trumpeter in DeJean's Olympia Brass Band, observed that “as the procession heads through the neighborhood, you might see a black wreath hanging on the door where the deceased lived or worked.” **The mood is, generally somber, and the musical selections are taken from Christian hymns, such as “Free as a Bird” or “Just a Closer Walk With Thee,” commonly sung in black Protestant churches.** While playing the hymn(s), the musicians indulge in virtually no improvisation.” Ellis L. Marsalis Jr, “New



casket has been laid in place, the band breaks into a joyful “second line”<sup>44</sup>—symbolizing the triumph of the spirit over death. Tonight the Gulf Coast is still coming through the dirge – yet we will live to see the second line.

Thank you, and may God bless America.

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Orleans jazz funerals – history”, *American Visions* (Oct-Nov, 1998) [Reprinted excerpt from the introduction to Leo Touchet, Vernel Bagneris and, Ellis Marsalis, *Rejoice When You Die: The New Orleans Jazz Funerals* (Louisiana State University Press, 1998)  
([http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1546/is\\_n5\\_v13/ai\\_21277702](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1546/is_n5_v13/ai_21277702))

<sup>44</sup> “The distance the band walks today may be only a few blocks, since burial sites are not always within walking distance of the church or funeral parlor. If the cemetery is nearby, the band accompanies the procession to it. **When the interment ceremony is completed, the band leads the procession from the gravesite without playing. When a respectful distance from the site has been reached, the lead trumpeter sounds a two-note preparatory riff to alert his fellow musicians. At this point, the drummers begin to play what has become known as the “second line” beat.**” Ellis L. Marsalis Jr, “New Orleans jazz funerals – history”, *American Visions* (Oct-Nov, 1998) [Reprinted excerpt from the introduction to Leo Touchet, Vernel Bagneris and, Ellis Marsalis, *Rejoice When You Die: The New Orleans Jazz Funerals* (Louisiana State University Press, 1998)  
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## APPENDIX

### Vetting Results

Larry Johnson

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2. We are only able to do a preliminary press search due to lack of information available.

b(6)

- Relevant news articles found:
  - Press focuses his Hurricane Katrina experience.