



S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 5

President Addresses Nation, Discusses Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

The Rose Garden, September 3, 2005

THE PRESIDENT: In Biloxi I met Bronwynne Bassier and her sister, Kim. Bronwynne told me that the only earthly possessions she had left were the clothes on her back. I also met relief and rescue workers who are performing heroically in difficult circumstances. They've been working around the clock, risking their own lives to save the lives of others. Yet, despite their best efforts, the magnitude of responding to a crisis over a disaster area that is larger than the size of Great Britain has created tremendous problems that have strained state and local capabilities. The result is that many of our citizens simply are not getting the help they need, especially in New Orleans. And that is unacceptable.

I know that those of you who have been hit hard by Katrina are suffering. Many are angry and desperate for help. The tasks before us are enormous, but so is the heart of America. In America, we do not abandon our fellow citizens in their hour of need. And the federal government will do its part. Where our response is not working, we'll make it right. Where our response is working, we will duplicate it. We have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters all along the Gulf Coast, and we will not rest until we get this right and the job is done.

This week we've all been humbled by the awesome powers of Mother Nature. And when you stand on the porch steps where a home once stood, or look at row upon row of buildings that are completely under water, it's hard to imagine a bright



President George W. Bush comforts Bronwynne Bassier, right, and her sister Kim after landing in Biloxi, Miss., Friday Sept. 2, 2005, as part of his tour of the Hurricane Katrina-ravaged Gulf Coast. Their family lost everything in the wake of the devastating storm. White House photo by Eric Draper

future. But when you talk to the proud folks in the area, you see a spirit that cannot be broken.

The emergency along the Gulf Coast is ongoing; there's still a lot of difficult work ahead. All Americans can be certain our nation has the character, the resources, and the resolve to overcome this disaster.

We will comfort and care for the victims. We will restore the towns and neighborhoods that have been lost in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. We'll rebuild the great city of New Orleans. And we'll once again show the world that the worst adversities bring out the best in America.

Mrs. Bush Visits The Area



Laura Bush visits with people affected by Hurricane Katrina in the Cajundome at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, La., Friday, Sept. 2, 2005. White House photo by Krisanne Johnson



Laura Bush and U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings meet newborn Iriella Johnson and her mother Irene Johnson, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2005, one of the many families displaced from New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, during a visit to the Goodman Oaks Church of Christ in Southaven, Miss. The Goodman Oaks Church of Christ was one of the first shelters established in Mississippi when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. White House photo by Krisanne Johnson



Laura Bush leans down to comfort a woman and her young child inside the Cajundome at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette during her visit to the center, one of many created to accommodate victims of Hurricane Katrina. White House photo by Krisanne Johnson



Laura Bush embraces a child Thursday, Sept. 8, 2005 of one of the families from New Orleans, displaced last week as a result of Hurricane Katrina, during a meeting at the Greenbrook Elementary School in DeSoto County, Miss. Greenbrook Elementary School has enrolled the most displaced students among the DeSoto County schools in Mississippi. White House photo by Krisanne Johnson

President Asks Bush and Clinton to Assist in Hurricane Relief Efforts

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and her immense devastation, former Presidents Bush and Clinton established the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund to provide relief and rebuild resources to help the victims of this disaster. This charitable fund will collect cash and in-kind donations and work with the governors of the affected states to coordinate both the short and long term relief efforts. Please go to www.usafreedomcorps.gov to learn more or, you can mail a check or money order to the addresses listed below. Please make checks payable to the "Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund".



Standing with former Presidents Bill Clinton and George H. W. Bush, President George W. Bush discusses the plans to help people affected by Hurricane Katrina in the Oval Office Sept. 1, 2005. "We're working hard to repair the breaches in the levees. Federal, state, and local agencies are also cooperating to sustain life," stated President Bush. "That means getting food and water to those who are stranded. Medical personnel and local officials are helping hospital patients and people gathered in the Superdome to evacuate." White House photo by Paul Morse

PLEASE MAIL CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS TO:

**Office of President Clinton
Re: Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund
55 W125th Street
New York, NY 10027**

or

**Office of President George H. W. Bush
Re: Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund
10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 900
Houston, TX 77024**

Hurricane Katrina Emergency Telephone Numbers and Websites

ISSUE

TELEPHONE/WEBSITE

Check on Missing Loved Oneswww.familylinks.icrc.org/katrina
.....866-438-4636 (866-Get Info)

For Displaced Public Housing Residents and Section 8 Voucher Holders
HUD's Housing Resource Information Center1-800-955-2232

For Schools in Need or Schools with Offers to Help
ED's Hurricane Help for Schoolswww.ed.gov/katrina
Children's Emergency Education Hotline1-800-291-7809

For Information on Volunteering
FEMA Volunteer Hotline1-800-440-6728
USA Freedom Corps (USAFC)www.usafreedomcorps.gov
The USAFC site includes volunteer information for the general public, as well as MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS (volunteer.ccrf.hhs.gov), DISASTER RELIEF SPECIALISTS (www.citizencorps.gov), TRAINED POLICEMEN (www.policevolunteers.org) and FIREFIGHTERS (www.firecorps.org).

To Donate Money
FEMA's Donations Hotline1-800-440-6728
USAFCwww.usafreedomcorps.gov
The USAFC site includes information on the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund (www.bushclintonkatrinafund.org), state relief funds (www.louisiana.gov; www.servealabama.gov), and the network of humanitarian organizations helping with the relief effort (http://www.networkforgood.org).

To Donate Goods or Services
National Emergency Resource Registrywww.swern.gov

National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Hurricane Katrina was one of the worst natural disasters in our Nation's history and has caused unimaginable devastation and heartbreak throughout the Gulf Coast Region. A vast coastline of towns and communities has been decimated. Many lives have been lost, and hundreds of thousands of our fellow Americans are suffering great hardship. To honor the memory of those who lost their lives, to provide comfort and strength to the families of the victims, and to help ease the burden of the survivors, I call upon all Americans to pray to Almighty God and to perform acts of service.

As we observe a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina, we pledge our support for those who have been injured and for the communities that are struggling to rebuild. We offer thanks to God for the goodness and generosity of so many Americans who have come together to provide relief and bring hope to fellow citizens in need. Our Nation is united in compassion for the victims and in resolve to overcome the tremendous loss that has come to America. We will strive together in this effort, and we will prevail through perseverance and prayer.

Americans are reaching out to those who suffer by opening their hearts, homes, and communities. Their actions demonstrate the greatest compassion one person may show to another: to love your neighbor as yourself. Across our Nation, so many selfless deeds reflect the promise of the Scripture: "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in." I encourage all Americans to respond with acts of kindness in the days ahead. By contributing time, money, or needed goods to a relief organization and by praying for the survivors and those in recovery efforts, we can make a tremendous difference in the lives of those in need.

Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath resulted in a considerable loss of life. We pray that God will bless the souls of the lost, and that He will comfort their families and friends and all lives touched by this disaster. As the American people unite to help those who are hurting, we share a determination to stand by those affected by Hurricane Katrina in the months and years ahead as they rebuild their lives and reclaim their future. We are determined that the Gulf Coast region will rise again. The tasks before us are enormous, and

so is the heart of America. We will continue to comfort and care for the survivors. We will once again show the world that the worst adversities bring out the best in the American people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 16, 2005, as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina. I ask that the people of the United States and places of worship mark this National Day of Prayer and Remembrance with memorial services and other appropriate observances. I also encourage all Americans to remember those who have suffered in the disaster by offering prayers and giving their hearts and homes for those who now, more than ever, need our compassion and our support.

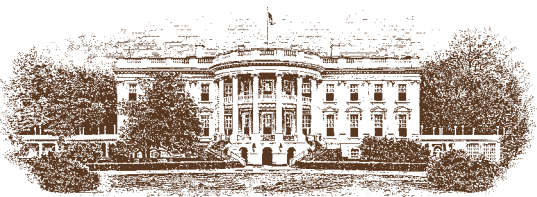
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH



President George W. Bush embraces victims of Hurricane Katrina Friday, Sept. 2, 2005, during his tour of the Biloxi, Miss., area. The President told residents that he had come down to look at the damage first hand and to tell the "good people of this part of the world that the federal government is going to help." White House photo by Eric Draper

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