

By: Senator(s) Cuevas, Albritton, Browning,
Butler, Carmichael, Frazier, Harden, Jackson
(11th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Little,
Moffatt, Turner, White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 606

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE NAVAL METEOROLOGY AND
2 OCEANOGRAPHY COMMAND, THE NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE AND THE FLEET
3 SURVEY TEAM, BASED AT THE STENNIS SPACE CENTER, AND REAR ADMIRAL
4 TIMOTHY MCGEE (U.S. NAVY), AND THE NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION
5 BATTALION SEVEN (SEABEES) AND COMMANDER DAVE SASEK, FOR PERFORMING
6 EXEMPLARY SERVICE ON THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST DURING THE
7 HURRICANE KATRINA CRISIS.

8 WHEREAS, on Monday, August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, a
9 Category Four Hurricane, crashed with unrelenting and violent
10 force onto the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast, making landfall at
11 or around Waveland, Mississippi. In one day, the worst natural
12 disaster in our history struck us a grievous blow, leaving a
13 90-mile swath of unprecedented destruction along the coast and
14 causing severe damage throughout central and north Mississippi;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, under the command of Rear Admiral Timothy McGee
17 (U.S. Navy) the personnel of the Naval Meteorology and
18 Oceanography Command (CNMOC), the Naval Oceanographic Office
19 (NAVOCEANO) and the Fleet Survey Team (FST) located at the John C.
20 Stennis Space Center demonstrated untiring stamina and
21 unparalleled dedication in responding to the Category Four
22 Hurricane Katrina; and

23 WHEREAS, demonstrating superior leadership in directing a
24 wide variety of pre-storm preparations and post-storm recovery
25 efforts, while continuing to support worldwide fleet requirements
26 for oceanographic information, they established a 24-hours-a-day,
27 7-days-a-week unified command Emergency Operations Center, and
28 conducted the extraordinary 24-hours-a-day "house-to-house"
29 personnel reconnaissance and recovery effort, leading to a 100%

30 accountability within 10 days of storm passage. Salvage
31 operations were coordinated using CNMOC, NAVOCEANO, Naval
32 Construction Battalion and Marine Corps active duty and reserve
33 and Army National Guard personnel to recover and salvage the
34 personal effects from over 1,000 Navy Stennis personnel whose
35 homes were severely affected or destroyed by the storm; and

36 WHEREAS, additional volunteer relief efforts were
37 consolidated throughout an area encompassing the Mississippi
38 Counties of Harrison, Hancock and Pearl River and the Louisiana
39 Parish of St. Tammany. In conjunction with senior NASA officials,
40 a cadre of dedicated volunteers developed and implemented the
41 "Stennis Helping Stennis" Program, designed to assist Stennis
42 Space Center employees get back into their homes, to assist the
43 schools in the affected areas and to provide for the greater good
44 in the local community. The Fleet Survey Team quickly surveyed
45 areas of the Gulf Intra-Coastal Waterway, Mississippi River Gulf
46 Outflow Canal, Violet Canal, Pearl River, sections of the
47 Mississippi River, NASA's Michoud Port Facility, and the Trunkline
48 Liquid Natural Gas Terminal; and

49 WHEREAS, despite the criticality of dealing with Hurricane
50 Katrina devastation, NAVOCEANO continued operational support to
51 ongoing operational overseas efforts, including the Global War on
52 Terror, through the Special Operations Command, Tampa, Florida;
53 the Mission Support Center, San Diego, California; and the
54 National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, St. Louis, Missouri; and
55 the Ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Readiness Effectiveness
56 Measurements Program Exercise (SHAREM 151). With a fleet of seven
57 state-of-the-art oceanographic survey (T-AGS) ships, the Fleet
58 Survey Team expeditionary units, and the Compact Hydrographic
59 Airborne Rapid Total System aircraft operating worldwide,
60 NAVOCEANO continued to provide them product and personnel manning
61 support through the Survey Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, NAVOCEANO's Warfighting Support Center established a "makeshift" production watch, which coordinated with U.S. Special Operations Command and the National Reconnaissance Office for the production of 13 analyzed imagery products of the devastated Gulf Coast region and adjacent littoral waters. Critical to the safety of navigation for arriving JOINT TASK FORCE KATRINA naval ships rendering humanitarian assistance aid, they developed direct oceanographic analyses of tide and current products and the over 40 analyzed imagery products, that assisted Marines, both by sea and land, Coast Guard, National Guard, and other local Civil Defense rescue teams with their immense Search and Rescue and Recovery phases of operations; and

WHEREAS, Navy veterans at Stennis Space Center say this is the first such program they've seen where the service provides for civilians as well as Navy personnel; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Naval relief efforts at Stennis, the Seabees were first responders on the Gulf Coast. Commander Dave Sasek '87, U.S. Navy, took command of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN (NMCB-7) in late July, about a month before Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. Because of their location, the battalion was among the first responders after the hurricane hit. The initial response efforts, which began as soon as the all-clear was sounded, included clearing base roads, restoring the security fences and re-establishing the base security perimeter. As the response effort matured, they worked in the Port of Gulfport in support of Coast Guard watercraft efforts, cleared roadways and worked in local schools. "All told, NMCB-7 assessed over 1,500 miles of roads and cleared over 525 miles of roads," reported Sasek. "We removed nearly 6,000 tons of debris and provided volunteers to man food/water distribution points, providing for an average of about 500 to 600 families per day"; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Naval Academy Alumni and U.S. Navy personnel in South Mississippi found themselves in the crosshairs when

95 Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast. In the
96 post-hurricane weeks to come, those individuals took on leadership
97 roles as communities around the John C. Stennis Space Center and
98 the Mississippi Gulf Coast struggled to begin an arduous recovery;
99 and

100 WHEREAS, Rear Admiral McGee's and Commander Sasek's inspired
101 and enthusiastic leadership, as well as unfailing devotion to duty
102 of the personnel of U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanography
103 Command, the Naval Oceanographic Office, the Fleet Survey Team and
104 Seabees Battalion Seven significantly contributed to the ongoing
105 recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast from devastation of
106 Hurricane Katrina:

107 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
108 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
109 we do hereby commend the officers, sailors and civilian personnel
110 of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC), the
111 Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) and the Fleet Survey Team
112 (FST), based at the Stennis Space Center, and Rear Admiral Timothy
113 McGee (U.S. Navy), and the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
114 SEVEN (SEABEES) unit at Gulfport, Mississippi, and their Commander
115 Dave Sasek, for their exemplary service, conduct and performance
116 rendered prior to and subsequent to Hurricane Katrina's
117 unprecedented destruction on and near the Mississippi Gulf Coast
118 in August and September 2005, and we offer these military and
119 civilian personnel our thanks for their assistance in providing
120 relief operations during this critical time, as we endeavor to
121 rebuild our state and restore its economy.

122 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
123 Admiral McGee and Commander Sasek, representing these Naval
124 commands, and be forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy and
125 members of Mississippi's congressional delegation and be made
126 available to members of the Capitol Press Corps.