

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 149

Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2004

Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. BREAUX) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service consistently provides critical forecasts and warnings about severe weather to the Nation's citizens;

Whereas 4 hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, recently hit the State of Florida, an event which has not occurred since 4 hurricanes struck Texas in 1886;

Whereas Hurricane Jeanne was the fourth hurricane in 6 weeks to hit the United States mainland;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked tirelessly and under great pressure to provide the most up to date information to the public, the media, and emergency management officials during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted approximately 1,128 live television and radio interviews as well as 1,480 telephone briefings to the media and others during Hurricane Frances;

Whereas the forecasts and information from the National Hurricane Center provided notice for the evacuation of millions of residents in the line of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and warnings to the residents of Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Hurricane Research Division at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, Florida conducts the research needed to improve hurricane forecasts and went on flights in and around hurricanes to gather and improve data that goes into the National Hurricane Center's forecasts, watches, and warnings to protect lives and property;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, New Jersey developed, carefully monitors, and continues to improve the National Weather Service's operational hurricane model used to determine where the storms are likely to go;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunters logged over 300 hours of operational hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged 739 hours of flight time through and around the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Hurricane Liaison Team, a joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency partnership, provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center provided rainfall forecasts and hurricane track guidance to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, worked expediently after Hurricane Charley to fix data buoys that proved critical for forecasts of Hurricane Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4-day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, and Taunton provided up-to-the-minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Offices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas more than 7,000 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over the Southeastern United States several days in advance; and

Whereas the hurricane season continues through November, and all these employees continue tracking new tropical depressions approaching the United States coast: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) commends the employees of the National
4 Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic
5 and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction
6 Center/National Hurricane Center,
7 Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and Na-
8 tional Data Buoy Center; the National Oceanic and
9 Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations
10 Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida;
11 the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the
12 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at
13 Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the Hur-
14 ricane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service;
15 and the National Environmental Satellite Data and
16 Information Service, for their extraordinary dedica-
17 tion and hard work during Hurricanes Charley,
18 Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

19 (2) commends the Southern, Eastern, and Cen-
20 tral Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan,
21 Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jackson-
22 ville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville,
23 Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wil-
24 mington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New
25 Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston for their

1 extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hur-
2 ricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

3 (3) commends the employees of the Office of
4 Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, especially the
5 Hurricane Research Division;

6 (4) thanks the commercial and media mete-
7 orologists for their contributions in disseminating
8 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
9 tion forecasts and warnings to the public; and

10 (5) expresses its support for the ongoing hard
11 work and dedication of all who provide accurate and
12 timely hurricane forecasts.

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