

who introduced the President; Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; Billy Nungesser, president, Plaquemines Parish; Maj. Gen. Bennet C. Landreneau, Adjutant General, Louisiana National Guard; former Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Region Recovery and Rebuilding Donald E. Powell; Maj. Gen. Douglas V. O'Dell, Jr., USMC (Ret.), in his capacity as Federal Coordinator, Office of Gulf Coast Rebuilding; Chris Paul, point guard, New Orleans Hornets; President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico; Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada; and Warren J. Riley, superintendent, New Orleans Police Department.

### **Statement on the Death of Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones**

*August 20, 2008*

Laura and I are saddened by the death of Chairwoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

As a proud lifelong resident of Ohio's 11th District, she devoted her career to serving her community at both the State and national levels. She was an effective legislator who was dedicated to helping small businesses, improving local schools, expanding job opportunities for Ohioans, and ensuring that more of them have access to healthcare. After making history as the first African American woman elected to Congress from Ohio, the Congresswoman worked to expand the rights of all Americans. Our Nation is grateful for her service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her son Mervyn Leroy Jones II and the rest of her family.

### **Remarks Following a Dinner With Elected Officials and Community Leaders in Gulfport, Mississippi**

*August 20, 2008*

**The President.** Governor, thank you for coming.

**Governor Haley Barbour of Mississippi.** Thank you, sir.

**The President.** I thank the United States Senators—Senator Wicker, Senator Cochran—Congressman Taylor, mayors, supervisors—county supervisors, small-business owners, high school teacher. Thank you all

very much for giving me a chance to come and visit with you.

I have brought—you know, a member of my administration, United States Marine General—retired—O'Dell is here to listen to people. We still understand there are issues, but I do want to say something about the progress. I remember what it looked like right after the storm. I remember what it looked like in the first anniversary right after the storm. I remember what it looked like last year, Governor. And things have improved a lot.

Are there still people wondering about their future? Absolutely. Do they still have other issues to deal with, like cleaning out some of the bureaucracy so that the housing issue can get solved quicker? Absolutely. But things are better here on the gulf coast of Mississippi.

And one reason they're better is because you've had strong leadership, and the other reason—at the State and local level. And the other reason is because people refused to give in to the storm. People picked up their lives and decided that this is where their home was going to be and made something out of these communities.

I remember going to the schools right after the storm hit and seeing the determination of the teachers and principals about how—whether they had to be in a trailer or in a old building, they were going to teach these kids. And the spirit of southern Mississippi is real, and it's alive. And the leaders here around the table know better than me what I'm talking about.

So, I appreciate you giving me a chance to come. I told people that I'm almost through, but I'm sprinting to the finish. This is not the farewell dinner. [*Laughter*] But this is an opportunity to come and listen to what's on people's minds, with the idea of continuing to work with the elected officials to solve problems and make sure this is even better 6 months from now than it is today.

At any rate, I want to thank you. Food's good here too. [*Laughter*] I appreciate your time, Governor. Thank you.

**Governor Barbour.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:28 p.m. at Vrazel's Fine Food. In his remarks, he referred to Sen. Roger F. Wicker of Mississippi; and Maj.

Gen. Douglas V. O'Dell, Jr., USMC (Ret.), in his capacity as Federal Coordinator, Office of Gulf Coast Rebuilding.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **August 16**

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing followed by a briefing on the situation in Georgia.

#### **August 18**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a video teleconference briefing on Tropical Storm Fay with Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel.

#### **August 19**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing, in which he was briefed on the deaths of 10 French soldiers who were killed in an ambush on August 18 in Kabul Province, Afghanistan. He was then briefed on the current situation in Georgia and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's meeting with NATO allies in Brussels, Belgium.

The President announced that Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao will replace Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as head of the Presidential delegation attending the closing ceremony of the Olympic games in Beijing, China, on August 24.

The President announced his intention to nominate James X. Dempsey to be a member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

The President announced his intention to designate James A. Williams as Acting Administrator of the General Services Administration.

#### **August 20**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Orlando, FL. He then traveled to the Orange County Convention Center, where he presented the President's Volunteer Service Award to Keela Carr, who recently walked across the country to thank and raise support for U.S. military personnel.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA. He then traveled to Jackson Barracks, headquarters for the Louisiana National Guard, where he toured the facilities. Later, he traveled to Gulfport, MS.

In the evening, the President met with Leslee Morrow Curry and Krysten and Trevor Curry, wife and children of Gulfport Police Officer Robert J. Curry who was killed on August 14 in a motorcycle accident. He then returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

#### **August 21**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with former President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to wish him well and thank him for his cooperation in the war on terror. He then had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani of Pakistan to express his condolences for the loss of life due to the terrorist attacks in Dera Ismail Khan on August 19 and in Wah on August 21 and to discuss the war on terror and U.S. economic assistance. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President met with Counselor to the President Edward W. Gillespie.

The President declared an emergency in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Tropical Storm Fay beginning on August 18 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Young to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members