

the many facets of these United States. Growing up, my parents instilled in me a strong appreciation for the Caribbean values they learned in Jamaica: a strong work ethic and tremendous pride in my heritage. As a parent, I have passed on these same values to my own children, so they will develop a sense of pride in their Caribbean heritage and acknowledge the many roles Caribbean people play in shaping this nation. I wholeheartedly support this resolution that commemorates Caribbean heritage, history, culture and contributions to the United States.

In her 1970 autobiography, Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress, credited her success to the education she received while attending school in Barbados. She wrote, "Years later I would know what an important gift my parents had given me by seeing to it that I had my early education in the strict, traditional, British-style schools of Barbados. If I speak and write easily now, that early education is the main reason."

This is a nation built by immigrants. From as early as the 17th century there have been individuals from the Caribbean Islands, working here in the United States as indentured servants in the colony of Jamestown, Virginia. They worked in fields picking cotton, tobacco and crops just as the slaves did.

Caribbean immigrants have been contributing to the well-being of American society since its founding. Alexander Hamilton, the First Secretary of the Treasury was from the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. We count among our famous sons and daughters, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Cicely Tyson, W.E.B. Dubois, James Weldon Johnson, Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier to name a few.

Moreover, this is a nation that reaches out to immigrants. None of us will forget the earthquake that shook Haiti to its very foundations in every sense of the word on January 12, 2010. Since then, we have all seen the outpouring of support to the Haitian people and their families on behalf of the American people.

What fewer notice perhaps, are the powerful contributions that Haitians have made to America, its history and its culture. In 1779 soldiers from then Saint Dominique, now Haiti, fought alongside American revolutionaries. Despite the fact that the then slave-holding United States did not look favorably upon an Independence Movement it saw as a dangerous slave rebellion, many historians attribute the Louisiana Purchase partly to the fact that Haitian slaves rose up against their French masters from 1794 to 1801. Haitian born Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable founded Chicago, one of our great cities. And Americans from coast to coast have enjoyed the contributions Wyclef Jean, another of Haiti's sons, has made to our musical culture. Indeed, from history to food to music, Haiti has a long history of helping to shape America.

H. Res. 1369 recognizes the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States. Our nation would not be what it is today without these significant contributions of the Caribbean people and we should honor these accomplishments with the passing of this legislation. The contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States and play an important role in the unique diversity that enriches and strengthens our nation.

By passing this legislation we continue to honor the friendship between the United States and Caribbean countries. We are united by our common values and shared history, and we should celebrate the rich Caribbean Heritage and the many ways in which Caribbean Americans have helped shape this nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to pay tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and the Caribbean countries.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1369.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### SUPPORTING HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING WEEK

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1407) supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 1407

Whereas the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition has declared the week of June 13 through June 19, 2010, as "High-Performance Building Week";

Whereas the House of Representatives has recognized the importance of high-performance buildings through the inclusion of a definition of high-performance buildings in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

Whereas our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings consume 40 percent of the primary energy and 70 percent of the electricity in the United States annually;

Whereas buildings consume about 12 percent of the potable water in this country;

Whereas the construction of buildings and their related infrastructure consumes approximately 60 percent of all raw materials used in the United States economy;

Whereas buildings account for 39 percent of United States carbon dioxide emissions a year, approximately equaling the combined carbon emissions of Japan, France, and the United Kingdom;

Whereas Americans spend about 90 percent of their time indoors;

Whereas the value of all United States construction alone represents more than 13 per-

cent of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product and the value of the Nation's structures is estimated at over \$28 trillion;

Whereas poor indoor environmental quality is detrimental to the health of all Americans, especially our children and the elderly;

Whereas high-performance buildings promote higher student achievement by providing better lighting, a more comfortable indoor environment, and improved ventilation and indoor air quality;

Whereas high-performance residential and commercial building design and construction should effectively guard against natural and human-caused events and disasters, including fire, water, wind, noise, crime, and terrorism;

Whereas high-performance buildings, which address human, environmental, economic, and total societal impact, result from the application of the highest level of design, construction, operation, and maintenance principles—a paradigm change for the built environment;

Whereas nearly 7,500,000 Americans are employed in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance sectors and require education and training to achieve and maintain high performance; and

Whereas the United States should continue to improve the features of new buildings and adapt and maintain existing buildings to changing balances in our needs and responsibilities for health, safety, energy and water efficiency, and usability by all segments of society: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week;

(2) recognizes and reaffirms our Nation's commitment to high-performance buildings by promoting awareness about their benefits and by promoting new education programs, supporting research, and expanding access to information;

(3) recognizes the unique role that the Department of Energy plays through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Building Technologies Program, which works closely with the building industry and manufacturers to conduct research and development on technologies and practices for building energy efficiency;

(4) recognizes the important role that the National Institute of Standards and Technology plays in developing the measurement science needed to develop, test, integrate, and demonstrate the new building technologies; and

(5) encourages further research and development of high-performance building standards, research, and development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1407, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1407, supporting the

goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week.

In 2008, my colleague Representative JUDY BIGGERT and I came together to form the bipartisan High-Performance Buildings Caucus. We both recognized that any conversation about our energy future and the creation of clean-energy jobs must involve our built environment. Investing in building energy-efficiency measures is the most immediate and effective way to reduce carbon pollution, lower energy demand, create good clean-energy jobs, and save American families and businesses money.

The built environment has a larger impact on the overall environment than many think. Each year, our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings account for about 40 percent of our total energy consumption. They consume 70 percent of all electricity from the grid, 60 percent of all raw materials, and 12 percent of all potable water in the United States alone. Through more efficient building practices and new technologies, we are beginning to address these problems in our built environment, but there is still much more to do.

I am a strong advocate of increasing the number of high-performance building technologies and construction throughout the U.S. A high-performance building is one that incorporates an entire-systems approach to building which includes energy and water efficiencies, lifecycle cost analysis, and other environmental attributes into designs that are accessible, secure, resilient, and in many cases, historically preserved.

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High-performance buildings are more important in these difficult economic times because of their reduced energy cost, higher building values, and lower overall operating and maintenance costs.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit with many companies and manufacturers that work in this field. The majority of all building products are American-made and manufactured. This is key because here in the U.S., building construction is responsible for 15 percent of GDP per year. And according to the U.S. Green Building Council, greater building efficiency can meet 85 percent of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

The retrofitting of existing buildings or the design and construction of new high-performance buildings will have enormous impacts on the growth of our economy and securing our energy independence.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 1407, supporting the goals and ideals of

High-Performance Building Week. The congressional High-Performance Buildings Caucus declared the week of June 13 through June 19 High-Performance Building Week in order to support and foster the engineering and innovation required for the construction of high-performance buildings.

High-performance buildings seek to address human, environmental, and economic issues inherent in the development process through the application of the highest level of design, construction, operation, and maintenance principles. These buildings can effectively guard against natural and human-caused events and disasters, including fire, flood, wind, noise, crime, and terrorism. When high-performance standards are used in schools, they also promote higher student achievement with better lighting, a more comfortable indoor environment, and improved ventilation and indoor quality.

Nearly 7.5 million Americans are employed in building design, construction, operation, and maintenance. These professions require high levels of education and training, the need for which will only intensify as the number of high-performance buildings increases. The resolution before us today seeks to promote awareness of the benefits of high-performance buildings and to illustrate continued support for research, education, and access to information in these areas.

We also recognize the important roles the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology play in developing the science necessary to create, test, integrate, and demonstrate new building technologies. Moreover, we recognize the innovative spirit and commitment of Americans to achieving excellence in this field. Our Nation's economy faces a number of obstacles, and we recognize the importance of construction and the value of every job created and maintained by this sector of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution honoring the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to join my colleagues in designating the week of June 13th as High-Performance Building Week. Green buildings present an important opportunity: we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help people lead healthier, more productive lives, and spur vital economic development through retrofitting, redevelopment and new development of high performing buildings.

As I travel around the country, I have seen the importance of green buildings in communities everywhere. People are realizing that not only do green buildings decrease long term maintenance and utility costs, improve the health of their residents and workers and reduce our impact on the environment, they play an important role in spurring economic development and centering livable communities.

I am particularly excited by the work of Mr. Anthony Malkin, who is taking on the bold and

visionary plan of retrofitting the Empire State Building. When it was built, the Empire State Building marked the beginning of a new era in American cities. It's a testament to the pioneering American spirit that we're taking what was a 20th century engineering marvel and turning it into an example of what is revolutionary and necessary in the 21st century. By the time Mr. Malkin and his team are done, the Empire State Building tenants will use 49 percent less energy and provide a cleaner, healthier space for all who work there. I'm glad to see that this American landmark will help lead the way to a cleaner, greener economy.

I can't talk about the green economy without discussing what's happening in my hometown of Portland, Oregon. Officials there are currently finalizing designs and plans for one of the first major living buildings. The Oregon Sustainability Center will be net zero for both energy and water, will be built and operated without using any toxic chemicals common to building materials, and will source materials and workforce from the local area. It will serve as a collaborative hub for Oregon's sustainability industry, encouraging collaboration between organizations, local governments and research facilities, and will show the rest of America showing what's possible. The Oregon Sustainability Center will be the first of the next generation in high performance buildings and I am proud that Portland is leading the way.

I am proud to support this resolution today and hope that my colleagues will join me.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 1407, which enumerates the ideas and goals of High-Performance Building Week. The High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition has designated the week of June 13 through June 19, 2010, as "High-Performance Building Week," in recognition of the importance of efficient, green building technology in our quest for energy independence. I believe consideration of the environmental impact of each of our buildings is vital to the future of American society, and I agree with the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition on the need for awareness of the benefits of high-performance construction.

As a Georgia representative, I am proud of the leadership our universities and agencies have shown in the national movement toward environmental responsibility. Several of Atlanta's foremost institutions are stellar examples of American excellence in high-performance building. Emory University's Whitehead Biomedical Research Building was the first building in the southeast to be certified as green. With a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating of Silver from the U.S. Green Building Council, the Whitehead Research Building uses high-performance technologies, such as rainwater harvesting, to operate its 150 laboratories. This building marked the inception of Emory's policy of requiring all newly constructed buildings to obtain a minimum LEED rating of Silver.

Also located in Atlanta are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, whose Division of Laboratory Science in 2005 became the first U.S. government building to receive a LEED Gold certification. Its unique sun-shade structure takes in light and reflects it throughout the building, while simultaneously time

blocking solar heat. Aside from the dozens of technological innovations the building boasts, its green design solutions have also saved the CDC an estimated \$1 million in annual operating costs. I am excited about the leaps in the science of high-performance building we have seen in my State and across the country over the past decade, and applaud the designation of High-Performance Building Week as I look forward to the bright future of environmentally-friendly construction.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1407.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1388) supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 1388

Whereas the Atlantic and central Pacific hurricane season begins June 1, 2010, and ends November 30, 2010, and the eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15, 2010, through November 30, 2010;

Whereas an average of 11 tropical storms develop per year over the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico, and an average of 6 of these storms become hurricanes;

Whereas in an average 3-year period, roughly 5 hurricanes strike the coastlines of the United States, sometimes resulting in multiple deaths, and 2 of these hurricanes are typically labeled "major" or "intense" category 3 hurricanes, as measured on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale;

Whereas millions of Americans face great risks from tropical storms and hurricanes, as 50 percent of Americans live along the coast and millions of tourists visit the oceans each year;

Whereas the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season included 9 named storms, including 3 hurricanes, 2 of which were category 3 or higher;

Whereas during a hurricane, homes, businesses, public buildings, and infrastructure may be damaged or destroyed by heavy rain, strong winds, and storm surge;

Whereas damage from a hurricane is usually substantial, as debris can break windows and doors, roads and bridges can be washed

away, homes can be flooded, and destructive tornadoes can occur well away from the storm's center;

Whereas experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center and the National Weather Service agree that it is critical for all people to know if they live in an area prone to hurricanes, to figure out their home's vulnerability in the event of a storm surge, flooding, and heavy winds, and to develop a written family disaster plan based on this knowledge;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in areas prone to hurricanes prepare a personal evacuation plan that identifies ahead of time several options of places to go in the event of evacuation, the telephone numbers of these places, and a local road map;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in areas prone to hurricanes prepare a disaster supply kit before hurricane season begins that includes a first aid kit with essential medications, canned food, a can opener, at least 3 gallons of water per person per day for 3 to 7 days, protective clothing, rain gear, bedding or sleeping bags, a battery-powered radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members, and written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water in the event authorities advise these actions;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center recommends that citizens know that a "hurricane watch" means conditions are possible in the specified area, usually within 36 hours, and a "hurricane warning" means hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area, usually within 24 hours;

Whereas in the event of a hurricane warning, the National Hurricane Center recommends people listen to the advice of local officials, evacuate if told to do so, complete preparedness activities, stay indoors and away from windows, be alert for tornadoes, and be aware that the calm "eye" of the storm does not mean the storm is over;

Whereas in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, inland flooding was responsible for more than half the deaths associated with tropical storms and hurricanes in the United States;

Whereas the National Weather Service recommends that when a hurricane threatens the United States, people in potential flood zones evacuate if told to do so, keep abreast of road conditions through the news media, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water, develop a flood emergency action plan, and do not attempt to cross flowing water in an automobile, because as little as 6 inches of water may cause one to lose control of the vehicle;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides more detailed information about hurricanes and hurricane preparedness via its website, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/>; and

Whereas National Hurricane Preparedness Week will be the week of May 23 through 29, 2010: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week;

(2) encourages the staff of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, especially the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to continue their outstanding work of educating people in the United States about hurricane preparedness; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to recognize such a week as an opportunity to learn more about the work of the National Hurricane Center in forecasting hurricanes

and educating citizens about the potential risks of the storms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1388, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on June 1, hurricane season began in the Atlantic Ocean. Hurricane forecasters have predicted an above-average year for tropical storms and hurricanes for 2010. As we enter hurricane season, it is therefore very timely to consider this resolution recognizing the importance of hurricane preparedness.

Hurricanes are among the most powerful forces of nature we experience. As the tragedies from past storms have taught us, it is vitally important that Federal, State, and local governments work together to better prepare the coastal communities for these powerful storms to minimize the loss of life and costly physical damage. Part of this effort is educating the public about hurricanes and hurricane preparedness. The National Hurricane Center at NOAA is a critical resource in this effort. In addition to providing us with the hurricane forecasting information that coastal communities all rely on, the National Hurricane Center also focuses considerable effort in educating coastal communities about hurricane preparedness. This includes recommendations from what supplies to have handy if you live in a hurricane-prone region to encouraging people to craft personal evacuation plans in the event of a storm. These seemingly small steps can make an enormous difference in saving lives.

We don't have any hurricanes in my home State of Missouri, but these same lessons of preparedness for deadly weather can be seen in the Midwest. Living in "Tornado Alley," we know all too well the consequences of not being prepared for action when the tornado warnings go off. Unfortunately, all too often the results from being unprepared is a loss of life.

It really is hard to understate the importance of adequate preparation and preparedness in these regions of our country that are susceptible to dangerous weather. I want to thank my friend from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) for introducing this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1388, supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

Every year, our coastal areas face the threat of hurricanes and tropical storms. These storms feature high wind speeds, heavy rains, and storm surges which can cause flooding and coastal erosion. With millions of Americans living within 50 miles of a vulnerable shoreline, these factors, unfortunately, can also cause loss of human life and substantial property destruction.

Over the last several decades, the increasing population density along the Nation's coastlines has contributed to the rising cost of recovering from hurricane damage. Thus, it is critical governments prepare for evacuation, ensure emergency supplies are readily available, and require adequate safety standards for infrastructure and buildings.

Each year since 1998, the National Weather Service has issued a seasonal outlook forecasting the number of storms likely to arise during the hurricane season, June 1 through November 30. This year, the National Weather Service is projecting between eight and 14 hurricanes. Storms with sustained wind speeds of 74 miles per hour or greater will form in the Atlantic basin, and between three and seven of these storms could be major hurricanes with wind speeds of at least 111 miles per hour.

Although not all storms will make landfall, a greater number of possible storms this season indicates landfall is more likely. This resolution encourages people to utilize the knowledge gained from past disasters, to learn about the potential risk of being caught in a hurricane, and how to prepare for the associated hazards.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1388.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding and I rise today in support of the resolution, but I really wanted to support the previous resolution, but I was in a conference.

As the co-chair of the High-Performance Buildings Caucus, I am delighted to join my colleague and caucus co-chair, Congressman RUSS CARNAHAN, to recognize June 13 through June 19 as High-Performance Building Week, House Resolution 1407.

Last week's celebration was marked by numerous events, including Hill briefings and offsite green infrastructure tours, and I would like to thank the National Institute for Building Sciences, the American Society for Landscape Architects, and the National Institute for Standards and Technology for organizing these tours throughout last week.

Congressman CARNAHAN and I first formed the High-Performance Buildings Caucus in 2008 to heighten awareness and inform policymakers about the major impact buildings have on our health, safety, and environment. Through monthly briefings, we explore the opportunities to design, construct, and operate high-performance buildings that reflect our concern for these impacts. In fact, since we first started this caucus, we've had almost 25 briefings on everything from lighting technology and building modeling to smart-grid facilities management and green job creation.

Understanding how every element of a building affects us—and our energy bill—is important. Buildings consume 40 percent of the energy used in the U.S. while emitting 39 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. Perhaps a more surprising statistic is that Americans spend, on average, 90 percent of their time indoors. With this in mind, new building construction and sustainability of our current building inventory is more important now than ever.

Consider two statistics from the U.S. Green Building Council: Students with optimum daylight in the classroom performed 20 percent faster on math tests and 26 percent faster on reading tests in 1 year than those with less daylight. Improvements with indoor environments are estimated to save \$17 billion to \$48 billion in total health gains and \$20 billion to \$160 billion in worker performance.

Most importantly, a 2009 McKinsey study on energy efficiency demonstrates the potential for the residential building sector to reduce its energy consumption by 35 percent over the next 10 years, and 40 percent in the industrial sector. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we maintain our commitment to and awareness of high-performance buildings and the benefits they offer society.

We could not honor the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week without thanking those groups that have helped us over the last 2 years. Dozens of building and standard organizations make up the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus Coalition. I know I speak for myself and my fellow caucus co-chair when I say thank you for your help educating, researching, and advancing the goal of high-performance buildings.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1388, to support the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week. This important resolution urges the people of the United States to recognize this week as an opportunity to learn more about the work of the National Hurricane Center in forecasting hurricanes and educating citizens about the potential risks of the storms.

I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for their leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART, who authored this timely resolution.

As Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, emergency preparedness for all types of natural disasters, such as flash floods in natural parks or wildfires in southern California, is an important issue to me. I will soon be introducing legislation that emphasizes the importance and need for effective and reliable alert systems when these natural disasters occur.

In an average 3-year period, roughly 5 hurricanes strike the coastlines of the United States. The 2009 Atlantic hurricane season included 9 named storms, including 3 hurricanes, 2 of which were category 3 or higher. Because damage from a hurricane can be substantial, the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in areas prone to hurricanes prepare a personal evacuation plan that identifies ahead of time several options of places to go in the event of evacuation, the telephone numbers of these places, and a local road map. When a hurricane threatens the United States, people in potential flood zones must evacuate if told to do so, keep abreast of road conditions through the news media, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water, and develop a flood emergency action plan.

H. Res. 1388 encourages the staff of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, especially the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center, to continue their outstanding work of educating people in the United States about hurricane preparedness. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation to promote increased safety measures during hurricane season.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1388.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1330, a resolution that supports the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week. I also want to thank my colleague, the honorable MARIO DIAZ-BALART, for introducing this important resolution.

My district is in the wake of many hurricanes that make their way into the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane season has a profound impact on our way of life in the Gulf. For example, our latest hurricane, Hurricane Ike, wreaked havoc on Texas, particularly in Galveston and Houston. As we moved forward with recovery efforts, it was clear that the impact of this storm has been widespread and many people are still in need of assistance. Lost in the discussion of Sunday's World Refugee Day was the group of internally displaced individuals from Ike, Rita, and especially Katrina.

Unfortunately, Texans are still in need of help, especially the neglected residents of North Galveston. Let us use this time to examine how FEMA and HUD are responding to citizens so that we can continue to provide the aid people desperately need to fully recover from this storm.

I continue working to ensure that Hurricane Ike victims still have access to recovery resources and call for expeditious action, urging a better response and expedited assistance from FEMA, HUD, and local officials. I also call on housing associations to re-open access to housing for Hurricane Ike victims.

Just as we saw in the 9th ward of New Orleans, Louisiana Post-Hurricane Katrina, people in North Galveston have not received the