

named the 2005 Labor Leader of the Year. Art is currently the Secretary-Treasurer and Principal Executive Officer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 36, which represents Building Material, Construction, Industrial, Professional and Technical Employees.

Art is a native San Diegan and graduated from Chula Vista High School in 1975. Art also attended San Diego City College where he completed the Business and Labor Studies Program.

Art began his career working at Nabisco Company for Teamsters Local 316 in Syracuse, New York in May of 1976. In December 1977, he transferred to Local 36 and began driving for Oberg Construction and later at Bechtel Power Corporation at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and then moved to Hubbard Construction Company. In January 1990, Art began working at Teamsters Local 36 as an Organizer and Business Agent, and in May of 1995 was elected as the Recording Secretary on the Executive Board of Teamsters Local 36. In August of 2000, Art was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. He has since been re-elected twice.

Art serves as co-chair for San Diego County Teamsters Construction Trust for Health and Welfare, Pension, Vacation and Training Trusts, as well as Alternate Trustee of the San Diego County Teamsters Employers-Insurance Trust Fund. Art currently serves on the Advisory Committee of the Industrial Relations Research Association (IRRA), and the Executive Board of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council as well as being the Treasurer and Executive Board member of The San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council. His newest position is with the San Diego County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Sub-committee.

Art also serves as the Recording Secretary of the California Teamsters Hispanic Caucus and the Executive Director of the National Teamsters Hispanic Caucus. Art is extremely proud of organizing the Annual Teamsters Hispanic Golf Tournament held at Torrey Pines every year. The event has raised over \$300,000 in scholarships for the sons and daughters of Teamsters. Since 2000, Art and Kris Hartnett have co-chaired the John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet which has raised over \$1.2 million.

Art currently resides in Carmel Mountain Ranch in San Diego. Art has 2 sons, Art Jr., 26, and Wesley, 24. Art Jr. currently works in Seattle, Washington and is a software engineer for Marchex Corporation. Wes works for the City of Santa Monica in the Engineering Department. Art's proudest moment was seeing Art Jr. graduate from Berkeley and Stanford and Wes from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Art enjoys golf, tennis and traveling.

I am proud to salute Art Cantu—Labor Leader of the Year.

CONGRATULATING RABBI AMIEL
WOHL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Amiel Wohl of New Rochelle

for being honored with the 2005 Yitzhak Rabin Peacemaker Award.

The Yitzhak Rabin Peacemaker Award is given annually to an individual who has sought to bring better understanding and harmonious relationships between various religious and ethnic groups. Rabbi Wohl has carried out this mission time and time again, including efforts to aid Christians suffering in Lebanon through his organization, People for Relief in Lebanon.

Rabbi Wohl has been committed to inter-faith communication since his arrival at Temple Israel of New Rochelle in 1973. Almost immediately, he coordinated the Interreligious Council, which brought together Catholic, Protestant and Jewish houses of worship and religions organizations. He has also been instrumental in other groups dedicated to inter-faith communication, including the Westchester Jewish Conference, which has sought to cross both denominational and municipal lines.

Rabbi Wohl has exemplified the ideals we seek in individuals of faith. From creating the Coalition for Mutual Respect in 1979 to traveling as far as Sacramento, California, to participate in inter-faith efforts, Rabbi Wohl has worked tirelessly to sustain the dialogue necessary to address conflicts among the different faiths in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi Amiel Wohl on his accomplishments and in congratulating him on receiving this award.

BUSH POLICIES CONTRIBUTE TO
HURRICANE CATASTROPHE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to outline how President Bush's policies contribute to the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe that took place in the Gulf Coast area of our nation. Just as in Iraq, the President's policies and unbelievable mismanagement on the domestic front have brought pain and suffering to American people.

Thousands of people may have been killed by Hurricane Katrina and many more could die in its aftermath because of the President's refusal to heed the calls of the governors for help in repairing the infrastructure in their states. In Louisiana, everybody knew that the levees that hold back flood waters were in disrepair. But instead of listening to the governors, the President cut funding for this purpose. Again and again vital domestic priorities have been sacrificed in order to pay for the occupation and rebuilding of Iraq, and these choices are now being revealed as harmful to our nation and people.

In addition to depriving the affecting areas of the funding that would have enabled them to prepare for Hurricane Katrina. The President's commitment to Iraq has impaired the response to the crisis. It is this commitment that has contributed to the slow response of federal troops who should have been on alert before the hurricane struck. Now, as bedlam reigns in New Orleans, 35 percent of Louisiana's and 37 percent of Mississippi's National Guard troops are in Iraq. The hurricane is clear evidence of how the war directly affects the domestic security of our country.

The President is destroying the fabric of America with a combined policy of war, tax cuts for the wealthy, and reductions in spending for domestic needs. These policies are supported by the Republican-dominated Congress. Even so, it was shocking to read reports that DENNIS HASTERT, the Speaker of the House, said that rebuilding New Orleans made no sense to him.

The President's policies have not only made us less secure, they have widened the chasm between the well-to-do and the poor. The people who couldn't get out of New Orleans to escape the storm were predominantly Black and poor. They stayed behind not because they wanted to risk the danger of the hurricane, but because they don't have cars or any other means of escape. No one is even talking about the poor in more rural areas—Blacks and Whites—who have not even been reached by rescue teams.

President Bush has tried to turn this tragedy into a political victory by flying in on a helicopter to examine the damage. But he is in store for more genuine outrage resulting from his failed policy in Iraq and the anger of the U.S. governors whose constituents are paying the price for the domestic policies of the "war president".

Please find below my letter to President Bush about the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: I am writing to strongly urge you to use your power and leadership to provide the most aggressive possible response to the humanitarian crisis taking place in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The response so far has been unsatisfactory.

Food, water, medicine and emergency housing is in critical need. In addition, with the crisis seemingly affecting poor people most, arrangements should be made for emergency short term grants and loans to individuals, particularly those who head families and are taking care of children and the elderly.

Further, while we are all dismayed by television pictures of looters, we must not allow the focus of our humanitarian efforts to be diminished in any way by those actions. While criminal activity that threatens lives should not be tolerated, we must use maximum discretion in the use of force against individuals who may be motivated by poverty and hunger.

I have received many calls from constituents as well as Americans across the country, who believe that the victims of this catastrophe are receiving a lesser government response than would be provided for people of means. True or not, this perception will be aggravated if in coming days Americans do not see a more forceful and creative response to this crisis, whether it means using large military planes to bring in supplies, including temporary housing and the use of hotels or even cruise ships.

Mr. President, we must raise the level of response to this crisis, the greatest natural disaster in the nation's history, and it must be done immediately.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Member of Congress.

HONORING STEVE PALMER,
OWNER OF PALMER PLACE RESTAURANT ON WINNING THE RESTAURANT NEIGHBOR AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Palmer, owner of Palmer Place Restaurant and winner of the National Restaurant Association Restaurant Neighbor Award.

The Restaurant Neighbor Award is a component of the Association's Cornerstone initiative, a comprehensive effort to advance and promote the restaurant industry's role as the cornerstone of community involvement, the cornerstone of career and employment opportunities and the cornerstone of economy.

This year's small business winner is Palmer Place. Creating a foundation sounds like a daunting task only achieved by huge corporations with lots of money to give away. But Small Business Winner Palmer Place Restaurant and its H Foundation is living proof that smaller restaurants can achieve big things in community outreach.

After a close friend and colleague died of cancer, Palmer Place owner Steve Palmer wanted to organize a fundraiser to raise money for cancer research. Palmer teamed up with local business owners John Rot and David Rizner to create the H Foundation where 100 percent of the money raised would go toward finding a cure for cancer.

The H Foundation aims to support innovative, forward-thinking cancer research. In 2003, the foundation donated \$170,000 to the Lurie center, from which researchers generated \$1.5 million in grants. Additionally part of the \$200,000 the H Foundation donated was used to create a program called Families After Cancer.

It is my honor to recognize Steve Palmer of Palmer Place Restaurant for his many achievements both within and outside of the business community, fostering the growth of a community as well as helping to create change and promote progress in cancer research.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (H.R. 3645) and of the decision to call this special session to send resources to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama quickly.

The thoughts and prayers of all Americans go out to the citizens of the states and communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The

entire country has watched the images of the destruction caused by this natural disaster with shock and sadness. Those who have lost loved ones, their homes and their communities must receive immediate aid and the legislation we are passing today will start that process.

As we respond to the immediate needs of the families displaced by this tragic natural disaster, the citizens of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama also have my commitment that I will work with you to rebuild New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf Coast. The impacts of this disaster on families, communities, the economy, and the environment will be long lasting. It will take resolve and commitment to ensure that we complete this enormous task.

The American spirit and the generosity of our citizens will be there for the victims of this tragedy. The first responder in this effort, however, must be the federal government—both for immediate needs and for long term rebuilding. Today is a critical first step in that effort and I am pleased to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST
TOCCARA RENEE GREEN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Specialist Toccara Renee Green.

Toccara Green served in the Army's 57th Transportation Company, 584th Corps Support Battalion, headquartered at Fort Drum, NY. A talented and dedicated soldier, Specialist Green began her commitment to the U.S. Armed Forces at an early age. While a student at Forest Park Senior High School, Specialist Green spent four years in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, where she was promoted to executive officer.

After her first year at Norfolk State University, Specialist Green decided to expedite her dream of serving in the Armed forces and enlisted in the Army. She served for nine months in Kuwait before beginning her first tour of Iraq as a motor and transport operator. Specialist Green was four months from completion of her second tour of Iraq when she was killed by a roadside bomb that detonated near her convoy in Al Asad on August 14, 2005.

Through her honor and service, Specialist Green dedicated her life to fighting for liberty so that others might taste the freedom that democracy brings. It is these ideals that America most cherishes, and that Specialist Green herself advanced.

Specialist Green's determination, enthusiasm, and ability to inspire others will be remembered by all who were privileged to know her. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Specialist Green and the incredible sacrifice she made for her country.

SECOND KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bills today to be taken up under sus-

pension of the rules. However, I strongly oppose taking up H.R. 3673, the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, which includes \$51.8 billion for the relief effort, including \$50 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under suspension. Doing so limits the opportunity for debate and amendments at a time when many legitimate questions are being raised about FEMA. We surely can spend some time debating these issues and offering amendments to make sure that FEMA spends this money properly.

Based on the performance so far, I have no confidence that either FEMA, or its director, Mr. Michael Brown, can manage the funds Congress is appropriating. Mr. Brown had no experience in disaster management prior to being appointed director of FEMA, and that lack of experience has shown all too clearly. Mr. Brown waited for hours after Hurricane Katrina hit the United States to issue a department-wide call for help from the Department of Homeland Security. According to Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, FEMA also prevented the Coast Guard from providing fuel to local emergency personnel and turned back trucks filled with drinking water for victims. Neither FEMA nor any other federal agency appeared to be in charge as lawlessness broke out in New Orleans. Three days later, on Thursday, September 1, Director Brown said that federal officials had just learned that people had taken refuge in the New Orleans Convention Center. This was despite numerous previous news reports showing Americans gathering there. These are just a few examples of the delayed and badly conceived response to this disaster.

Many of these problems stem from the incompetence of FEMA management or perhaps its position in the enormous Department of Homeland Security, which is the amalgamation of 22 federal agencies. FEMA is no longer a cabinet-level agency, reporting directly to the President, as it was under President Clinton. People have raised questions whether this change, and FEMA's move into the Department of Homeland Security with a focus on dealing with terrorist events, have made it less able to help Americans deal with and recover from natural disasters. With the situation ongoing and FEMA to be heavily involved for months to come as the Gulf region recovers, we need to get the answers to these questions now. We cannot do that when the majority shuts off debate and prevents amendments.

Furthermore, I am concerned about providing FEMA more money, \$50 billion, at a time when many Americans, including myself, have lost confidence in its ability to manage this crisis. How can we have faith that this money will not be wasted, based on FEMA's performance to date? Particularly now, with a budget deficit of over \$300 billion, we cannot afford to waste any of our resources. In this time of need, we must come together as Americans and spend whatever is necessary to help our citizens rebuild. But, quickly appropriating money without accountability will not solve the problems of the Gulf region, if that money is not going to be well-spent. Instead of ramming this money through without discussion, we should be talking about how we can ensure FEMA uses this money in the best way