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THE WASHINGTON CYBER REPORT

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OCTOBER LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The House adjourned on Saturday, October 9, after passing an emergency supplemental appropriations bill to assist with recovery efforts associated with Hurricane Ivan. The total disaster assistance funding in the bill was \$14.5 billion. Of that, \$11.6 was for hurricanes, primarily Hurricane Ivan. By far the most geographically extensive hurricane of the busy hurricane season, Hurricane Ivan produced disaster declarations for eleven states, including Alabama.

Congress must return in November for a lame-duck session and finish the regular appropriations bills. The House passed 12 of the 13 annual bills and the president has signed four into law. The remaining measures will most likely be combined into one omnibus appropriations bill.

Another bill awaiting action in the lame-duck session is the 9-11 commission intelligence community reform initiative. Different versions of this legislation have passed the House and Senate and conferees have been meeting since adjournment to develop a compromise that both bodies can pass and the president can sign.

108th Congress Accomplishments

Following are a few of the accomplishments of the 108th Congress:

- Across-the-board tax relief - increases the Child Tax Credit, eliminates the marriage penalty, and creates the 10% tax bracket, saving the typical family of four over \$900 next year
- Emergency Wartime Supplemental - provides U.S. troops with the protection they need as they fight the war on terror
- Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit - saves approximately 40 million seniors 10%-20% on their medicines
- Manufacturing and Jobs Tax Relief Plan - strengthens job creation and enhances American businesses' global competitiveness
- Health Savings Accounts - allows families to save for health care costs tax-free
- Concurrent Receipt - enhances benefits for over 200,000 disabled American veterans
- 4.3-Cent Gas Excise Tax Repeal - provides instant savings at the gas pump
- Corporate Fraud Crackdown - cuts corporate tax fraud by eliminating tax shelters and loopholes
- Pension Security Act - gives millions of Americans new tools to expand retirement savings
- Do-Not-Call Implementation Act - protects the privacy of American homes

108TH CONGRESS IN REVIEW

Miscellaneous House of Representatives statistics of the 108th Congress (2003-2004)

Votes: 1207

Bills introduced
in House: 6831

Public Laws: 356

House membership:
 Republicans 227
 Democrats 205
 Independent 1
 Vacant 2

Women in Congress:
 House 63
 Senate 14

Some of my activities in the 108th Congress (2003-2004)

Town meetings: 90

Meetings/
appointments: 1508

Speeches: 153

Total pending cases: 713

Total completed
cases: 3468

AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE IVAN

As of October 20, 2004:

- Total FEMA registrations statewide: 115,495
- FEMA's Individuals and Households Program: \$104 million approved
- \$61 million approved for Disaster Housing
- \$43 million approved for Other Needs Assistance
- 13 Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) currently open; total visits statewide: 26,189
- 65 counties approved for Individual Assistance
- More than \$2.2 million in SBA disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses approved
- Disaster Help Alabama coordinating volunteer recovery services for hurricane victims - goods or services can be donated by calling 877-824-9826 or visiting disasterhelp.net/Alabama
- Disaster legal services available through the Alabama Legal Hotline at 800-354-6154
- \$704,082 approved for Disaster Unemployment; residents may apply by calling the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations at 866-234-5382
- \$25 million in emergency food stamps issued
- 40 Community Relations field officers canvassing designated areas
- 92 emergency housing travel trailers being pre-positioned; 57 occupied
- State and local governments and certain private non-profits in 46 counties eligible for Public Assistance reimbursement on a cost-share basis

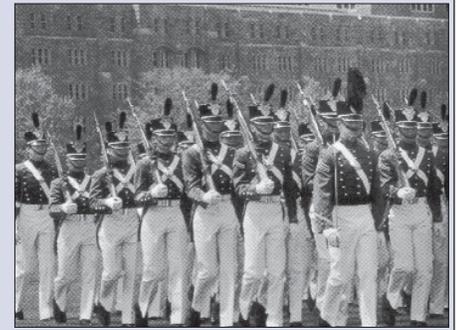
To register for FEMA assistance, call the toll-free number, 800-621-FEMA (3362) or 800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing- or speech-impaired or register on-line at www.fema.gov. **THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS NOVEMBER 15, 2004.**



Earlier this month, I was visited in Washington by Gulf Oyster Industry Council representatives. Pictured with me are (l-r): Dan Leonard, Wilbert Collins, Bobby Savoie, Mike Voisin, Al Sunseri, and Dale Diaz.

SECOND ANNUAL ACADEMY NIGHT A SUCCESS

Academy Night 2004 was a success! We had a wonderful turnout, and it was encouraging to see so many young people in attendance. The program was enjoyable and informative as representatives from each academy presented information on their respective institutions. Thank you to all who attended the program at St. Paul's Episcopal School Moorer Theatre. If you missed the program and would like more information on Congressional nominations, please contact Jill Zurfluh in my Mobile office at 690-2811 or 1-800-288-USA1, and we will be glad to provide you with an application.



I recently had the pleasure of visiting with the 2nd grade class at Central Christian School in Robertsdale.

From the mailbox...

Dear Congressman Bonner,

I would like to compliment your Mobile Office, and in particular Ms. Kay Williams, for her excellent response to my need to get visas for two Russian scientists to come to the United States for consultation with USA manufacturers as possible suppliers to my company. She responded immediately and effectively to get me an appointment with the head of the visa office at the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia. Ms. Williams continues the tradition of excellent service to constituents which was a hallmark of the long tenure of Sonny Callahan in the seat you now occupy.

Thank you for the help of your office in getting this done.

Respectfully,

A thankful business owner in Baldwin Co.

October 6, 2004

