

1. O.S. HOLIDAY MEMORIAL POST #27, Deridder, LA (7th District) 337-463-5765
CO: Bill Loftin, 337-462-3640 adj. Darrell Binford 337-328-8247

Housing, feeding, and transporting 41 dialysis patients for 30 days. Rec'd \$3K from NEF.

2. KAPLAN POST #271, 1514 American Legion Drive, Kaplan LA (3rd District) 337-643-7991. CO Ewell J. Marceaux (no phone listed) Adj: Joseph Mouton 337-643-2002

Assisting by registering & feeding evacuees, who will be housed in local residences (and some in the post home) the next 4-6 months. The post had been feeding two meals a day for 120-225 people. They have had to cut back to one meal a day. Rec'd \$3K from NEF

3. NICHOLSON POST #38, Baton Rouge LA (6th District) 151 S. Wooddale, B.R. LA 70806 225-927-8826 CO: Willie Stevens 225-926-6719. No adjutant listed on post report - you might try Vincent Misuraca 225-261-5744. Vince is 6th District Adjutant and a member of Post #38.

Have 12 18 wheeler loads of relief supplies arriving 9-10/11. Also securing Wal-Mart gift cards for survivors with monetary donations from posts and department around the nation.

Will begin distribution Monday Sept. 12.

4. WILLIAM "BILL" A. GUILLORY POST #370 (7th District) 2540 Miller Ave, Westlake LA 70669 337-436-2922. CO: Ronald B. Cookson 337-439-5143 Adj: Michael Roach 337-439-6529 mikeroach@netcommander.com

Assisting 300 survivors in Moss Bluff, LA. by providing an RV for medical facility treatment area. Providing storage for medical supplies and food, as well as recreation equipment for survivors. contact Larry Abshire, District Commander at chevy65truck@cs.com

5. W. L. BERNARD POST # 242 P.O.Box 730, Patterson LA 70392. (3rd District) CO: Edwin Grow 985-384-3278 eagsew@juno.com (Ed is also a Dept. Vice Commander) Adj: Rudy Simoneaux 985-395-3078.

Post & Unit 242 has been preparing food and delivering it to local hotels/shelters for survivors. Have raised \$1200 for relief and the Auxiliary Unit has been assisting in shelters.

6. HENRY ROBERTSON POST # 83: 921 Veterans St., Lockport LA 70374. (3rd District) 985-532-6541 CO: Charles Wiggins 985-537-6456

On 9/8, with involvement of Unit 83, served red beans and rice to 200 survivors and has dedicated proceeds from next Bingo to relief.

7. VERMILLION POST #29, 3319 Veterans Memorial Drive, Abbeville LA 70510 337-893-5366 (3rd District) CO: Willie Hymel 337-893-5300 Adj: Charles Breaux (no # listed in roster)

Cooked chicken & sausage gumbo for 300 survivors on 09/04. Will do beef stew on 09/13 & 27 for same number.

Involved District Commanders

3rd: Michael Picard P.O.Box 796 Baldwin LA 70514 985-923-4719

6th: Morris Griffin: 348 Old Rafe Meyer Road baton Rouge LA 70807 225-775-5604

7th: Larry Abshire: 910-C Sampson Street, Westlake LA 70669 (h) 337-855-2397 (b) 337-497-1885 larryabshire370@cs.com

The Daily Legion Update: Katrina Relief

Sept. 8, 2005

- **Apply for an immediate NEF Grant at www.legion.org <<http://www.legion.org>>**
- **Contribute to the NEF at www.legion.org <<http://www.legion.org>>.**
- **Both transactions secure.**
- **Apply by toll free hotline: 1-800- 433-3318**

Applications for NEF roll in:

The new system of direct application for grants by hotline and secure website is providing a record fast turnaround. From what we can see, this processing is leading the way in disaster relief perhaps because of the absence of red tape and bureaucracy. Every dime raised for NEF goes right back to the Legionnaire. Rapid response is our primary mission - when the safety and needs of the Legionnaire and their family is at risk we accelerate our efforts to get those grants into their hands as fast as possible. Using electronic transfer opportunities, we can place that grant directly into their credit card account by direct transfer. Applying for the grant is made easier with our hotlines and Internet link at www.legion.org.

When soliciting NEF donations please share with potential donors that The American Legion National Emergency Fund program may be most expeditious and the most efficient grant delivery system that can be found anywhere.

NEF IN ACTION:

One Legionnaire spent three long days and nights on a rooftop in New Orleans before he was rescued. He was one of the first Legionnaires to receive a grant check from The American Legion's National Emergency Fund. He called the National headquarters to express his gratitude for the first turnaround in getting the check to him.

The Commander of a Post in New Orleans and her father were displaced by Katrina and resultant flooding. They needed expenses for food and clothing while they were looking for a place to stay. The NEF grant she received on short order immediately provided sustenance as they continue to find a place to live.

A new member to the Legion is active duty Navy. He and his wife had to evacuate his quarters with their two small babies. His wife is now in Wisconsin with the children staying with relatives while he is back in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The NEF grant has given them much needed relief during their Katrina-forced separation.

Active-Duty Outreach

Another news release was issued today to military newspapers informing active duty,

National Guard, and Reserve personnel who are also Legionnaires that the NEF stands ready to assist them quickly. The release, *American Legion Members on Active Duty and in the Guard, Reserve Could Qualify for Immediate Disaster Assistance* can be found on The American Legion website at www.legion.org <<http://www.legion.org>>. NAS Pensacola is currently housing a large number of military personnel displaced from their homes and duty stations as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

The spirit of giving is exceptionally strong among Legionnaires during this national disaster crisis. Some posts and districts are doing a phenomenal job in collecting donations and supplies. However, enthusiasm at times is so great that we forget about some of the basic logistical concerns. One of those concerns is the arrival of relief items and supplies on-scene. Have you thought of the road conditions enroute to the disaster areas? Are power lines down? Are detours in place? Once you get there, where will you unload your goods? Where will you park your trucks and vehicles? We recommend that you research your travel routes and drop-off locations prior to advancing to the gulf area. And if necessary, don't hesitate to contact National Headquarters to let us act as a traffic cop for you. Let us know what supplies you need or have and we can connect you with the post that has the greatest need and coordinate your transport with appropriate authorities.

Legionnaire's Eye Witness Report ***Past National Commander, Bill Detwiler, Louisiana***

Dear Family, My Fellow Legionnaires and Friends,
Many thanks for all that you are doing to assist the relief effort. My son and I drove to New Orleans yesterday from our temporary home in Natchez, MS. The normal 3-hour drive took 7 1/2 hours. The only route in is US 61. I 55 and 10 are diverted north of the city into US 61, thus the delay. We were allowed to enter Jefferson Parish (county) where my son lives and my office is located. Three houses down the street from his house burned to the ground. One house blew up, probably from a gas leak, and caused the houses on the each side to burn. The only things standing were some brick columns.

The breaks in the 17th Street Canal levees that caused the flooding after the storm had passed were on the Orleans Parish side of the canal. However, we will not be allowed back into the area for 10 days to two weeks. In addition to the delays caused by lack of access to the office, all of the Courts in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes have been closed by the Louisiana Supreme Court until at least October 1, 2005.

I stood on the bridge in front of my office that crosses the 17th Street Canal and looked back into Orleans Parish at a very disturbing and heart breaking sight -- the intersection of Veterans Blvd and West End Blvd. and adjacent streets is now a lake. As far as you can see the area is under 10 plus feet of water. The search and rescue teams from across the United States, along with active and military personnel, were launching their boats from the apron of the bridge.

No one really knows how long it will take to pump the area and the city dry. The area that we were looking at and the areas of the "9th ward and St. Bernard Parish, below the city, received the most flood waters.

For those of you who are interested, The International Conference on World War II that was to be held in New Orleans under the sponsorship of The National D-Day Museum, October 5 -- 9, 2005, has been postponed and will be rescheduled in the spring of 2006.

Legion Post's On-Scene Service to Veterans

Post 521 in Monroe, Louisiana is currently feeding up to 229 people daily. Despite the fact that funds are running low, the Legion family of Post 521 is using out-of-pocket money to defray the cost of feeding victims of Hurricane Katrina. National is sending a NEF grant to Post 521 to assist them in their great humanitarian efforts.

Lots of Clothes!

Post 71 in Utah has acquired over 330,000 pounds of brand news clothes for men and women, adults and children filling several 18-wheeler trucks. Efforts are currently underway to direct this much needed cargo to a refugee center(s) expeditiously.

Hands Across the Border: Posts supporting Posts

From Post 192, Evens, Georgia

When the Legion Family of Post 192 in Evens, Georgia, heard that a post in Mississippi needed some help so that they can help veterans in the disaster struck areas of Hurricane Katrina, they immediately mobilized to collect badly needed perishables and clothing items. On short order they collected a total of \$14, 871 of goods and perishables to include men, women and children clothing, shoes, household goods, bottle water, soap and candy.

Members of the post traveled to Post 24 in Petal, Mississippi. They reported that the roads were bad, power lines and trees were lying over the roads and many roads were closed and they had to take detours. But with veterans lives and needs on the line, the road warriors from Post 192 pressed on.

They arrived in Petal and found that the one beacon of light in the community was Legion Post 24. Legion families are living in Post 24 because the Legion building has power, food and water. They unloaded the truck and trailer and delivered the items collected in Evens, Georgia, to the Legionnaires Post 24.

This task was a strategic move on the part of the Legion relief efforts as Post 24 had been granted permission by authorities to travel to some of the worst disaster areas to personally deliver these goods to fellow Legionnaires and the veterans in the area.

“It is absolutely amazing,” said Diane Holmes, an Auxiliary member whose husband Larry is Adjutant of Post 24. “Legionnaires from Georgia - and some from as far away as Michigan and California - sending us supplies and things so that we can

help the Legionnaires who have lost so much here. It's simply amazing how fast the Legion reacted."

The representatives of Post 192 were so moved by the resilience of the Legion family of Post 24 that they are planning another trip to the coast this week to deliver another \$6,000 worth of water, clothes, stuffed animals and toys for the children and comfort items.

To keep the spirit of giving alive, Post 195 will continue to collect donations of new clothing, shoes, diapers, baby formula, water, toys, books, blankets, sheets and other non-perishable items for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The post will also host a breakfast for hurricane relief starting in October.

From The Department of California

Posts 416 in Encinitas, California, is in the process of identifying a post in the Gulf Stream states to adopt. Supplies, donations, moral support and service to veterans and the communities of that post's disaster-stricken will be the key areas that the men and women of Post 416 will focus on.

In addition, the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members of Post 416 are selling Hurricane Katrina T-shirts and are working on a dinner to raise funds for the victims of Katrina.

From The Department of Florida

When the 17th District of Florida heard that a post in a disaster struck area of Alabama had a warehouse that could be used as a distribution center, they call went out for donations and supplies. Post 250, just off I-10 at exit 19 A&B just outside Mobile will receive a truck load of supplies and necessities from the Florida district this week. The posts of the 17th District did an outstanding job in providing a wide variety of items that will be distributed to Legionnaires and veterans and their families. Here is a parcel list of things items being sent; canned goods, paper products, soap, cereals, powder milk, baby food and baby formula, diapers, first aid supplies, wheel chairs, canes.

Send your information to pr@legion.org <<mailto:pr@legion.org>> or by calling 317-630-1253.

The American Legion -- Still Serving America
