

“Hurricane Katrina: An evocative reminder” – Ken Pruitt – September 1st, 2005

That was close; too close. Thankfully, the hurricane flashbacks were limited to the last minute rush to the grocery store and long lines at the gas station. When Hurricane Katrina came through our area, she gusted a heavy breeze and dropped the equivalent of an afternoon thunderstorm. Frankly, we were spared and can now let out a collective sigh of relief.

However, last Saturday evening’s footage from Miami and more significantly, the ghastly pictures of devastation coming out of Louisiana and Mississippi, serve as an evocative reminder for the Treasure Coast.

We know what it’s like to have no electricity, destroyed homes, and shattered lives. I am sure I can speak for all of us in saying that it is a not feeling to be wished upon anyone. Unfortunately, the Atlantic hurricane season doesn’t come to an end until November 30th, leaving the door wide open for Lee, Maria, Nate, Ophelia, and beyond.

While Frances and Jeanne may still be fresh in our minds, it is safe to say we have returned to normalcy. Our current blue tarp roofs and insurance disputes pale in comparison to the hardships being faced by the victims left in Katrina’s path.

With this said, I would like to take this opportunity to ask our community to open our hearts for the people who likely did the same for Florida in 2004. These communities need our prayers, our compassion, and most essentially our support. There are so many ways to get involved and even the smallest bit of charity can go along way. Thank you and God Bless you for your warm generosity.

American Red Cross

1-800-HELP NOW (435-7669) English

1-800-257-7575

<http://www.redcross.org>

Federal Emergency Management Agency

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

<http://www.fema.gov>

Florida Hurricane Relief Fund

1-800-825-3786

<http://www.flahurricanefund.org>

Operation Blessing

1-800-436-6348

<http://www.ob.org>

America’s Second Harvest

1-800-344-8070

<http://www.secondharvest.org>

Salvation Army

1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>