



News Release From . . .

Congressman Rodney Alexander

5th Congressional District of Louisiana

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ALEXANDER VISITS 5TH DISTRICT SHELTERS

CONGRESSMAN CALLS ON ALL 5TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS TO HELP CARRY STATE'S BURDEN

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, today said that he has been in touch with FEMA, the Red Cross and shelters throughout the state and said that the Red Cross needs the following: cash donations, blood donations and volunteers.

"Right now, the needs of providing food, clothing and shelter are being met," Alexander said.

"The Red Cross, however, is in need of money to help address special needs for evacuees such as prescription drugs, tires for vehicles, and so many other concerns. What has happened to the Gulf Coast as a result of Hurricane Katrina is catastrophic. We have all seen the fury of this storm, so it is up to us -- as Louisianians-- to overcome this storm's destruction with our wallets, our time, our compassion, and every resource possible."

Alexander said his offices in Monroe 318-322-3500 and Alexandria 318-445-0818 are receiving a significant increase in calls, but stand by to assist at anytime.

Alexander will be in Monroe tomorrow visiting area shelters, where he will make a donation to The Red Cross and encourage 5th District residents to volunteer their time as well.

In Alexandria, LA., Alexander, working with the entire congressional delegation, Gov. Blanco and Jon Grafton, executive director of England Air Park, are trying to prepare 450 rooms that could accommodate approximately 900 evacuees. Alexander also said England Air Park has a mess hall with over 13,000 square feet of space.

"Jon and I have been in touch with FEMA and hopefully this project can get going soon, so that we can help alleviate the strain on so many of our shelters," Alexander said.

"The 5th Congressional District must open it's heart and home to our south Louisiana families in their critical time of need. Making sure that these evacuees, our fellow Louisianians, have food, clothing and shelter will be a concern for the 5th Congressional District for several months."

Alexander's district covers 22 parishes--one third of Louisiana. Numerous shelters are set up throughout the district. For information on how you can help The Red Cross, contact 1-800-HELP-NOW or go to www.redcross.org.