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OPINION

Katrina's Lessons And Unknowns

The 10 years since Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast and onto America's list of all-time disasters have flown by, it seems. A lot has changed since then, and some things haven't.

Katrina taught us lessons about flood management and disaster preparation that are unforgettable, or at least they should be.

But the whole situation itself stands as a monumental reminder that one can never truly be prepared for the unexpected.

When Katrina slammed into the southern Gulf Coast in the last days of August 2005, it crushed New Orleans and pummeled much of the coastland in that vicinity. All told, more than 1,800 people died from the storm, and New Orleans is still in the stages of a fitful recovery.

But as bad as the Category 5 hurricane was, the nightmare we now think of as Katrina wasn't strictly a natural disaster. The storm exposed terrible flaws not only in the infrastructure of the city's flood control system but also in federal abilities to respond to such epic disaster.

As the Slate news website reported this past weekend, much of the calamity wrought by Katrina was due to the inadequate flood protection system overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There were more than 50 breaches in the various levees meant to protect the low-lying city, and massive storm surge through canals caused a lot of inundation. Many of the pump stations flooded, and those that did work had no place to which to pump the storm water.

Making this matter even more tragic is that it wasn't a surprise. In 2004, an exercise called "Hurricane Pam" tested the city in a hypothetical Category 3 storm, and the results showed the levees being overtopped by high waters, although it did not show the levee breaches. Nevertheless, the test did show glaring problems in protecting this very vulnerable city, which sits in a geographical bowl, from rising waters. The warning signs were there.

The response of federal officials to the storm has become the stuff of unfortunate legend, and deservedly so.

Documents and communications from that time period show a federal government unprepared to respond to a storm of this magnitude, and a Federal Emergency Management Agency director, Michael Brown, who was slow to react to desperate cries for help from his own people in the New Orleans area.

According to the Slate research, emails suggest Brown was more concerned with how he looked in television interviews and in projecting the message that everything was under control, even when it clearly wasn't. Despite the now-infamous endorsement from President George W. Bush that "Brownie" was doing "a heck of a job," the FEMA director was forced to resign less than three weeks after Katrina struck.

While a better response couldn't have addressed the issues with the levees or nullified that monstrous magnitude of the storm, for instance, it could have gotten food and other supplies to storm victims far sooner and perhaps saved some lives.

Have we learned from this? Last week in New Orleans, President Barack Obama declared that federal officials are in much better position now to act quickly in such situations, thanks in part to the lessons harvested from Katrina.

But what else is a president going to say? It was really a limited statement because no one can really tell what these storms will do when they strike. And in an age in which climate change is creating stronger storms and more unpredictable meteorological activity, no one can pledge that things will go differently next time without acknowledging that we don't know what "the next time" will be.

Katrina exposed a lot of flaws in the process. Changes have been made, we've been told. But there's an old adage that says countries usually prepare to fight the last war, not the next one. In this case, we may be prepared for a replay of Katrina, but what about something else? Something worse? That's the question that will always be on the table when these matters arise.

kmh

ABOUT THIS PAGE

The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the PRESS & DAKOTAN. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, September 1, the 244th day of 2015. There are 121 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On September 1, 1715, following a reign of 72 years, King Louis XIV of France died four days before his 77th birthday.

On this date: In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was found not guilty of treason. (Burr was then tried on a misdemeanor charge, but was again acquitted.)

In 1905, Alberta and Saskatchewan entered Confederation as the eighth and ninth provinces of Canada.

In 1914, the last passenger pigeon in captivity, "Martha," died at the Cincinnati Zoo.

In 1923, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were devastated by an earthquake that claimed some 140,000 lives.

In 1939, World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

In 1945, Americans received word of Japan's formal surrender that ended World War II. (Because of the time difference, it was September 2 in Tokyo Bay, where the ceremony took place.)

In 1951, the United States, Australia and New Zealand signed a mutual defense pact, the ANZUS treaty.

In 1969, a coup in Libya brought Moammar Gadhafi to power.

In 1976, U.S. Rep. Wayne L. Hays, D-Ohio, resigned in the wake of a scandal in which he admitted having an affair with "secretary" Elizabeth Ray.

In 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter after the airliner entered Soviet airspace.

In 1985, a U.S.-French expedition located the wreckage of the Titanic on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean roughly 400 miles off Newfoundland.

In 1995, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland. (The hall opened to the public the next day.)

Ten years ago: New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin issued a "desperate SOS" as his city descended into anarchy amid the flooding left by Hurricane Katrina. Al-Qaida's number-two made the terror group's first direct claim of responsibility for the July 7 bombings in London in a videotape.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama convened a new round of ambi-

tious Mideast peace talks at the White House as he hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the first face-to-face negotiations in nearly two years. A man upset with the Discovery Channel's programming took two employees and a security officer hostage at the network's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland; police shot and killed the gunman, James Jae Lee, and all three hostages escaped safely. Cammie King Conlon, 76, the former child actress who'd played the doomed Bonnie Blue Butler in "Gone with the Wind," died in Fort Bragg, California.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, addressing a union crowd in Milwaukee, renewed his push for Congress to raise the minimum wage in a buoyant accounting of the economy's "revving" performance. The U.N.'s top human rights body overwhelmingly approved the Iraqi government's request for an investigation into alleged crimes against civilians committed by the Islamic State group in its rampage across northeastern Syria and parts of Iraq. Cole Hamels and three Philadelphia Phillies relievers combined to pitch a no-hitter, the fourth of the season, beating the Atlanta Braves 7-0.

Today's Birthdays: Former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird is 93. Actor George Maharis is 87. Conductor Seiji Ozawa is 80. Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz is 77. Comedian-actress Lily Tomlin is 76. Actor Don Stroud is 72. Conductor Leonard Slatkin is 71. Singer Archie Bell is 71. Singer Barry Gibb is 69. Rock musician Greg Errico is 67. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw is 65. Singer Gloria Estefan is 58. Former White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers is 54. Jazz musician Boney James is 54. Singer-musician Grant Lee Phillips (Grant Lee Buffalo) is 52. Country singer-songwriter Charlie Robison is 51. Retired NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway is 49. Rap DJ Spigg Nice (Lost Boyz) is 44. Actor Ricardo Antonio Chavira is 44. Actor Maury Sterling is 44. Rock singer JD Fortune is 42. Actor Scott Speedman is 40. Country singer Angaleena Presley (Pistol Annies) is 39. Actor Boyd Holbrook is 34. Actress Zoe Lister-Jones is 33. Rock musician Joe Trohman is 31. Actress Aisling Loftis is 25.

Thought for Today: "There is little that can withstand a man who can conquer himself." — King Louis XIV (1638-1715).

FROM THE BIBLE

I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. Ezekiel 34:26. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



Trump Is All Talk

BY MICHAEL REAGAN
CagleCartoons.com

Donald Trump is the first talk radio candidate. Everything he says on the primary trail sounds just like what you can hear on conservative talk radio every day.

When he's riffing about the failures of the political class in Washington, calling for an end to birthright citizenship or handling a media heckler like Jorge Ramos at a press conference, Trump is talking straight to the hearts and minds of the talk radio demographic.

He's not much of a conservative, or much of a Republican, for that matter.

But as Trump forces many of the other timid GOP candidates to address subjects they're otherwise too scared to address, he's echoing what millions of conservative talk-show listeners have been yelling about for decades.

I know. I used to be one of those talk show guys. I've heard what the silent majority yells and bitches at their radios about.

Trump is an entertaining showman. Though he'd hate to admit it, he's also a natural-born politician.

He might not be likable. But he knows how to relate to and communicate with his constituents. All he needs are catchy slogans, half-finished sentences, quips and shrugs.

The Donald is authentic all right — to a fault. But because he's immune to criticism from the media or other politicians, as a candidate he has it easy.

Like any conservative talk show host, he can say any wild-and-crazy thing about immigration or the Iran nuclear deal he likes without paying a political penalty or having to explain his sketchy policy ideas.

For example, he can promise us over and over that the first thing he'll do as President Trump is build a 1,900-mile wall to stop the illegals coming in from Mexico.

But the wall is the simple part. Every conservative talk radio guy in North America has been calling for a strong southern border wall for years.

But what would President Trump do about the 12 million illegal immigrants already living in the U.S.? And what about the millions of illegals who didn't wade across the Rio Grande to get here?

Studies say as many as 50 percent of them came here legally but then overstayed their tourist or student visas and never left. More than 10



Michael REAGAN

percent came from Asia. That "Great Trump Wall" he'll build on the Mexican border won't stop those kinds of "unauthorized" guests, no matter how tall it is.

It'd be nice if Trump — or any of the genuine conservative Republican candidates — had a few smart ideas about fixing our horrible legal immigration system.

With its long wait times, Soviet-style paperwork, high legal costs and politicized selection process, it's the epitome of a Big Government bureaucracy.

Last I heard, conservatives were supposed to be against such things.

Meanwhile, a one-man party like Trump will not be able to fix immigration, legal or illegal.

It's going to take a "boring" career politician like John Kasich, Rick Perry, Chris Christie or Jeb Bush to accomplish that and everything else Trump is talking about doing in Washington to "make America great again."

As Republican governors, Perry, Kasich, Christie and Bush have proven track records. Perry and Kasich have done all the right conservative things in Texas and Ohio.

They've cut taxes, cut back government and created new jobs by encouraging economic growth. Poor Perry did all three, plus he dealt with the border and hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants.

Trump has many accomplishments. He's a fabulous negotiator and builder. He's also stirring up Republican primary politics-as-usual in a beneficial way.

It's really great that he's not afraid to say what a lot of conservatives in the country want to hear him say.

But as any talk radio guy can tell you, saying something and getting something done are two different things.

What Perry and the other governors actually have accomplished in their states is what Trump can only espouse and promise if, by some miracle, he gets to Washington.

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ball Drop Fundraiser

The Board of Directors and Staff of Southeast CASA
We want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Yankton Volunteer Fire Department for their essential assistance with our recent Golf Ball Drop fundraiser. Obviously, if the fire truck is not there to lift the bag of 2,000 golf balls, we could not have our event. Larry Nickels and his crew have helped us out each year, and they are wonderful partners to CASA.

We also want to thank those businesses who sponsored the golf flags in the drop area: First National Bank, First Dakota National Bank, Conking Distributing, Graham Tire, Vishay Dale Electronics, Manitou Gehl, Kolberg-Pioneer, Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital, Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at USD, Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Birmingham and Cwach Law Offices Prof. LLC, Plains Marketing, Vermillion Rotary Club and The Chuck Stop. Our thanks also goes to KYNT Radio, the Yankton Press & Dakotan and the Missouri Valley Observer for their help with publicizing our event. The Yankton Dairy Queen is thanked for donating the ice cream cone certificates for the children who picked up golf balls after the event.

Last but certainly not least, we want to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets for their chance to win in the Golf Ball Drop for CASA event. Many of the prize winners donated their \$100 winnings back to CASA, so we really appreciate their generosity. We hope everyone enjoyed the event.

Thanks to the support of everyone above, children in Yankton, Clay, and Bon Homme Counties will receive CASA advocacy services this year. You have given these children the gift of hope for a brighter future.

Disagreement Is Not Hate

Kim Dale, Yankton

OK, let me say this one more time. I do not hate people who are gay. I hate no one. But I highly disagree with their lifestyle and no amount of anything will ever allow me to agree with what they stand for. Disagreeing does not equal hate.

In these weeks of letter writing, I have used Scripture as my defense to explain why I disagree. In return, I've been called hateful, homophobic among other things, especially online. Where is their compassion for people who disagree with them?

Over the weeks we have seen on the news people who are being sued for standing up for their God-given right to do what they want and believe what they want. For example, instead of seeking out another bakery to bake a wedding cake, the gay couple sues the bakery and ruins their life. Again, where is the gay compassion for people who disagree with them? There is none, and we all know that by now.

Poll Results

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the Press & Dakotan's Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think Joe Biden will run for president in 2016?
Yes.....47%
No.....27%
Not sure/don't care.....26%

TOTAL VOTES CAST233
The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Do you object to Mount McKinley in Alaska being renamed Denali?
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

The gays are trying to force Christians to agree with them on their lifestyle and most of us will not budge. And if I had a family member who turned out to be gay, I would do everything in my power to try and explain to them how wrong it (the lifestyle) is. And I would do this because I love them. Not because I hate them.

As for Pope Francis, he never ever said he believes gay marriage is OK. He believes in traditional marriage as being between one man and one woman. The Church will never teach that gay marriage is OK because God says it's wrong.

The fact remains that most homosexuals do not accept Jesus' teachings on chastity. Salvation comes from Jesus. Sin is a rejection of salvation. Adultery is a sin. Sex outside of marriage is adultery. The divine sacrament of marriage requires that one biological man and one biological woman vow their mutual love, fidelity and openness to life publicly and before God. We either choose God's way or the highway. And this choice needs to be made before we die. For all of us.

Grateful Marshals

Don and Marlys List

To Riverboat Days Board of Directors:
With humble hearts we wish to express a sincere "thank you" for choosing us as Parade Marshals of the 2015 Riverboat Days Parade that saluted all veterans.

We felt there were others more worthy than us to receive this great honor.

It was a day we will always cherish and remember, waving to and greeting great numbers of people along the parade route.

From a grateful veteran and his wife ...