

RECOGNIZING THE NOAA WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE IN LAKE CHARLES,  
LOUISIANA

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HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

of louisiana

in the house of representatives

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the NOAA Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Lake Charles, Louisiana. In September 2005, as Hurricane Rita was approaching the coast of Southwest Louisiana, the WFO Lake Charles developed a life saving partnership with elected officials and emergency managers that was instrumental in minimizing deaths from the storm. While Rita destroyed critical infrastructure and forever changed the landscape of Southwest Louisiana, WFO Lake Charles lived up to the motto of the National Weather Service by ``Working Together to Save Lives."

With up-to-date storm-tracking information, elected officials, law enforcement and emergency response personnel were able to lead a safe and thorough evacuation. In recognition of their heroic efforts, the staff of the WFO Lake Charles was recently awarded the Bronze Medal from the U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as a special award from the American Meteorological Society.

Although Hurricane Rita has changed the coast of Southwest Louisiana, it has also reinforced the belief in all of us that preparation is the key to ensuring our families, and our homes, are safe from future disaster. To that end, I commend the WFO Lake Charles for their outstanding job and dedication to the people of Southwest Louisiana.

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