



“IN THE NEWS...”

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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HURRICANE IMPACTED AREAS VISITED

Throughout the week, President George W. Bush, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Acting FEMA Director David Paulison and members of the State Emergency Response Team joined me in visiting South Florida areas impacted by Hurricane Wilma. Recovery will take time, but Floridians should rest assured that local, state and federal officials are working as one team, to address the needs of Floridians. The federal government has already declared many of our counties eligible for federal individual assistance to aid in the recovery, including: Lee, Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Hendry and Glades County.

During these challenging times, Floridians must continue working together and helping one another. For information on the response and hurricane preparedness, please visit www.floridadisaster.org. To make a donation toward the recovery effort, go to www.flahurricanefund.org.

ROSA PARKS REMEMBERED

On Tuesday, Columba and I joined the nation in mourning the loss of Rosa Parks. With one monumental act of courage, Mrs. Parks stood up to injustice and gave millions of African-Americans hope for a better future. She lifted a great movement upon her shoulders to fulfill our nation's pledge that all citizens are endowed with unalienable rights and created equal under God. Rosa Parks leaves a legacy of justice and dignity for all Americans. This humble mother of the civil rights movement confronted oppression, discrimination, and abuse, and in the process taught our nation the value of liberty. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Parks family during this difficult time.

“CONNECTED BY 25” KICKED-OFF

On Friday, I spoke at the “Connected by 25” kickoff event in Tampa. Connected by 25 is one of three national pilot programs helping people who “age out” of foster care make successful transitions to adulthood. The group is working with the community and state to open doors for foster children, ensure they complete their education, teach them financial literacy and help them gain lasting employment – all by the age of 25. At the event, Eckerd Family Foundation president Joe Clark announced the foundation will contribute \$1.3 million over three years to Connected by 25. All of us remember someone who opened a door for us. These young people lack the advantages that many other children grow up with. The program encourages businesses, individuals, and public and private agencies to participate as “Door Openers” by providing jobs, internships and financial education, serving as mentors, contributing to a scholarship program, and offering matching funds for special savings accounts. To help Connected by 25, call 813-314-2070 or go to its website, www.cby25.org.

GOVERNOR BUSH PRESENTS POINTS OF LIGHT AWARD TO KARL N. FLAGG

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