

Holloway notes milestone achievement on housing front

Here is the prepared text of Mayor A.J. Holloway's remarks delivered Wednesday afternoon, May 31, 2006 during a "welcome home" celebration for 11 east Biloxi families.

Thank you for being here.

People who visit Biloxi these days ask us why it looks like we're making great progress in our recovery effort. They want to know the reason that they see so much promise and determination here in Biloxi.

As Mayor of this city, I cannot tell you how proud that I am of the way the people of this community are not only enduring but PREVAILING over the challenges that we face.

Communities deal with things in their own way, and you never know until you're faced with something like this, but one of the keys to our success is what you're seeing here today.

I want thank every one involved in this project. I can't adequately express the deep appreciation that we have for the people of Arlington and Northern Virginia.

Affordable housing is by far the largest challenge that we face here in Biloxi, and what you're seeing here today – these families moving into these restored homes – represents a milestone in our recovery.

We don't have all of the answers to all of the issues we face, but we're working together and moving forward, and we're making things happen, thanks to the thousands of volunteers from across the country. Like I've said to many of the volunteers, I hope that we are never in a position to have to return the favor.

Finally, I want you to remember something that we've been saying since the afternoon of Aug. 29, even before the winds died down.

We're going to meet this unprecedented disaster with an unprecedented response. People are going to remember Katrina not so much for the massive devastation, but for the remarkable recovery effort they're going to see in Biloxi.

We were making history here in Biloxi before this storm, and we're ready to make history again as we move forward.

God bless the people of Arlington County and Northern Virginia, God bless Biloxi and God bless the United States of America.