

Letters of appreciation to caregivers



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Dear Ray Nagin, Mayor of New Orleans, My is _____. Although I have been living in Houston for the last five years, I am a native New Orleanian and both my mother and older sister have been directly affected by Katrina. Fortunately, they were able to escape the storm itself, but have been emotionally and economically devastated by the event

As to the purpose of this letter: I am currently a graduate student and have been instructed to send a letter of thanks to a prominent caregiver. While I admit that this assignment has prompted me to compose this letter, it has also forced me to realize how truly I, and all of New Orleans, value your efforts in both helping everyone involved and in bringing attention and direction to the reconstruction of New Orleans. This letter should have been something I wrote months ago. But hopefully it can serve instead as a small indication of the gratitude so many feel but have not had opportunity to express to you.

I have kept a close eye on events in New Orleans. I was particularly moved to hear how you tried to speak with and reassure people still trapped in the floodwater. So much of the media tends to focus on negative elements in general - especially in the event of a natural disaster - that virtuous acts are frequently overlooked. That small act of kindness is, I'm sure, just the tip of the iceberg of long hours and sleepless nights you must have spent through the course of the last year.

Please ignore any slander the press may say. The most notable commendation of your efforts has been your re-election - coinciding with the advent of this year's hurricane season. Whatever anyone else may say, the people of New Orleans trust you to have their best interests at heart - and remember, you were re-elected by those who have returned to New Orleans

and know most directly all that you have done for them. And although, I am not currently there, It warms my heart to know that someone is taking good care of my home so that I might one day return. Again, I offer you my heartfelt thanks, commend your efforts, and wish you continued success in your second term.

Sincerely,

Dear Kevin,

My health communications class has asked us to send two letters of appreciation to caregivers. One person I naturally thought of was Ray Nagin but the other one I thought of is you.

I don't know how much you, the SWAT force, and all of NOPD have been thanked for what you have accomplished. The papers tend to focus on events out of context like that mess near Slidell. They don't ever seem to mention how much good you did for the community or how many lives you saved from people too scared, stubborn, or incapable of fleeing. Try not to be too mad at them for being upset - they were traumatized and lashing out in any way they could.

Not that you don't understand that as well. My sister told me about you losing everything. I'm truly sorry, and I hope you got something from FEMA before they started trimming funds. But she has also told me about how you've relocated with them in Baton Rouge while you're commuting to New Orleans daily. Please be careful. I know you are probably exhausted from the long hours of the last year, and after you have survived so much, none of us need to have you running off of I-10 because you can't keep your eyes open. Like I said, not many good things get reported through the news, particularly when everybody was trying to point fingers. But I know about you. Mom and

Dad have told me everything you've done to help them, and I hear nothing but good things about the new house. And while I know there's still a lot of stuff left to do in both New Orleans and Baton Rouge, hopefully they'll give you some vacation time soon after all the overtime you've had to do. I've been thinking about all of you a lot here recently, and was considering making a visit but I have to time it so you'll be around to do the cooking, since my niece tells me her momma's cooking is never better

I'm sorry I've rambled - I know you stay busy most of the time these days. I just wanted to take the opportunity to say specifically to you that I appreciate everything you have done and you will always hold a special place in my heart. I'm very proud to have you in the family and very proud of you and the NOPD as well. Tell them that their efforts do not go unnoticed, and that New Orleans wouldn't be able to stand up again without their shoulders to lean on

Much love,