

## FREEDOM CALLS

Santa Barbara, CA

Today in my 85th year, my granddaughter asked me on Valentine's Day, "How many Valentines did you get, Grandma?"

I said, "None in the mail. I got a phone call from my 74 year old cousin."

"Oh, that's too bad. Why didn't anybody else send you one?"

I

I said, "What do you expect? It's not so bad. At 85, it's just that everyone who loved me is dead."

In much the same way, most of the people who remember what it was like to be responsible for their own survival are dead. It has been almost 70 years since this nation had to deal with hard times. America, as a nation, has no "corporate memory".

It takes a Brit to characterize us correctly. Peter Cady said, "Americans are addicted to acceleration."

Now, six months after Hurricane Katrina, Americans seem to be paralyzed from top to bottom. Has our boat lost its acceleration? Our people appear "dead in the water".

How do we restart the engine of the American people and get back in motion?

Although it may seem as though we have been stopped by Mother Nature, we have not. We merely needed a "breather" to adjust to our new sense of responsibility and self-worth as one who CAN make a difference. We, each of us, "counts" in the scheme of life. The amazing life-saving successes during Katrina of simple Americans saving lives of their neighbors, known and unknown, has brought you and I and all American people to our senses.

Katrina freed the American people from three widely believed myths.

1. The government was "in charge"
2. The federal system would protect us
3. The media was to be believed.

These earth-shaking changes in the wind were readily apparent at our meeting in San Diego on January 9, 2006.

Now is the time for NIUSR to build on the momentum of that event. We will build on that event with a One-Day Forum will open your eyes to see how we can each make a difference.

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The National Institute for Urban Search & Rescue (NIUSR) is uniquely able to bring together experts from every field and every level of government and non-government to discuss the issues that relate to our future survival. You will be our guest for this one day in beautiful woodland surroundings. We will serve you a delicious lunch and then send you on your way that afternoon with some homebaked cookies--ready to continue your efforts in the Age of Climatic Chaos working with a new generation who care!

How do we take responsibility for our own survival and get the spirit of Freedom in our nation moving again?

We do it one by one, then two by two, next three by three and march forward together.

An old parable states:  
It takes a man one minute to sow his seed.  
It takes a woman nine months to bear a babe.  
It takes a village to raise the child

In America we call our village a Community.

America will remain the Land of the Free  
Only so long as it's the Home of the Brave

