

Blame the Local Politicians

By Woodrow Wilcox

I never voted for President George W. Bush. I am not an ardent Bush supporter. But, it irritates me to hear people blame the President for a problem that he did not create. President Bush did not create the problems that lead to the Hurricane Katrina tragedy. He allowed other officials a chance to respond before he responded when it was clear that others would not or could not respond.

Blame the local politicians in New Orleans and Louisiana. It was local politicians who approved plans for real estate developers to build homes on known flood plains. How much money did the local politicians in and around New Orleans get from the real estate developers in the form of political donations and “consultation fees”? Why didn’t local and state politicians add funds to their budgets to strengthen and maintain the levees so that those levees would withstand a Class Five Hurricane? Was it too expensive or unnecessary in the opinions of the local politicians of New Orleans and Louisiana? How many people died because the local politicians put their personal profits and ambitions ahead of people’s safety?

It is great that all Americans are reaching out to help the New Orleans area victims. It is great that the federal government is helping. But, let’s remember that it was the local politicians of New Orleans and Louisiana who caused this disaster by not taking their responsibilities toward the people seriously.