

**Subject: newsletter GLBT Victims of Katrina**

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**Conversation:** newsletter GLBT Victims of Katrina

I apologize for sending this second Newsletter right on the heels of the first, but it's important enough, if you want to help our GLBT family victims of Katrina, that I decided not to wait to send it.

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## **NEWS - KATRINA DELIVERS SECOND BLOW TO GAY FAMILIES**

(Dallas, Texas) Recovering from the devastation of hurricane Katrina may be particularly difficult for same-sex couples who are not recognized in any of the three states directly hit by the storm or in those states where refugees have fled.

Louisiana has a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and prevents the state from recognizing any legal status for common-law relationships, domestic partnerships or civil unions. Mississippi and Alabama both have defense of marriage acts which also deny rights to gay and lesbian couples.

### **The Federal Defense of Marriage Act prevents FEMA from providing any relief in the form of family benefits to same-sex couples.**

The laws also will directly impact gay and lesbian families where one partner has died as a result of the hurricane.

Federal DOMA bars Social Security survivor benefits. State benefits would also be denied.

Please go to the Gay Good News page at <http://christiangays.com/news.shtml> for a link to the whole story and a way that you can help our GLBT family directly.

*(Thanks Jack & Ken!)*

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## **HURRICANE RELIEF – ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE**

Wayne Besen (Anything But Straight) is one of our regular contributors of articles to ChristianGays.com. I'm sad to say that Wayne makes many good points in his newest article about hurricane relief.

Excerpt:

This may be politically incorrect, but I'm having serious qualms about writing a check for Hurricane relief. The way I see it, I already gave my fair share for the effort on April 15. This is Tax Day, the painful moment where we surrender a large chunk of our hard earned change to the federal government, so they can fix levees and plan for national emergencies.

President George W. Bush, however, decided to squander this money on tax breaks for Cappuccino Conservatives and attacking a nation in the name of 9-11 that had nothing to do with the terrorist attacks. In the run-up to our superfluous war, the Pottery Barn rule was often invoked: "You break it, You own it."

Now we own it and we are broke.

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make no mistake about it, this is not charity, this is a backdoor tax and the privatization of disaster relief. Americans are reaching into their wallets to write checks to generously pay for what the federal government should have unquestionably funded in the first place.

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In 1998, a \$14 billion master plan was put together called Coast 2050 that addressed how to prevent such a tragedy in New Orleans. Thanks to the fiscal shortage created by Bush's tax windfall for Rolls Royce Republicans during a time of war, the plan to protect the city was scuttled.

Read the full article on Wayne's website at <http://www.waynebesen.com/columns/2005/09/bushs-death-tax.html>

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God bless,  
Mary

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<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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If you have any questions or concerns, please write to Jan at [jan@christiangays.com](mailto:jan@christiangays.com)

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