

## **2017 Hurricane Harvey Hurricane Irma**

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with all those who have suffered losses from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

We have many Sterett Association members who reside in Texas, Florida and the surrounding areas. We hope all of you are well and intact.

Long after the news stories fade from the front pages, those whose lives have been disrupted must continue on in putting their lives and property back together.

If one can find anything positive about these disasters, it is in observing how Americans can come together in their willingness to open their wallets and provide assistance to their fellow citizens.

There are many charities that have stepped up to provide help to those in need from the hurricanes.

Unfortunately, there are many illegitimate organizations that appear after disasters that are only looking to take your money and help themselves.

If you want to contribute to a worthwhile charity to assist those hurt by the hurricanes, do some homework and check out the organization before donating.

Here are some web sites you can refer to if you have any doubts about a charity you are considering supporting.

<https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Exempt-Organizations-Select-Check>

<http://www.charitynavigator.org/>

<http://www.guidestar.org/Home.aspx>

<http://www.give.org/for-donors/>

If you are interested in contributing to a charity that will target assistance to military veterans, Officer At Large Wayne McBrian submitted the following for your consideration:

The US Department of Veterans Affairs has initiated a special solicitation for the benefit of VA employees and veterans.

The contributions received from this special solicitation will be given to the PenFed Foundation, who will be giving grants to Veterans and VA employees impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma for reimbursement of home repairs not covered by insurance, temporary lodging, and extreme hardship expenses. Donations can be made at:

<http://www.penfedfoundation.org/VAemployees>

100% of donations will be used for the benefit of those in need. There are no administrative costs associated with this special solicitation.

While today's attention is mainly on the damage from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, we must also stay aware of the devastating fires that are ravaging the western states.

Thank you to the brave fire fighters on the fire lines.

Whether your loss is from Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma or the horrific wild fires, we hope you and your families are well. The generosity of Americans will make the long road to recovery a little more bearable. Keep the faith and Godspeed.