



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Briefing on Post-Katrina Rebuilding and the Vietnamese-American Community

WHAT: *Community Briefing on Post-Katrina Rebuilding and the Vietnamese-American Community.* Organizations representing the Vietnamese community will testify on the rebuilding efforts of the Vietnamese Americans in New Orleans. The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus' (CAPAC) Housing Task Force will be in attendance to outline legislative opportunities for CAPAC in regards to post-Katrina housing policy. The NCVA Report "Vietnamese Americans in Hurricane-Impacted Gulf Areas: An Assessment of Housing Needs," will also be released during the briefing.

The goal of the briefing is to highlight the immense investment the Vietnamese community has made in Gulf coast rebuilding and the continuing rebuilding needs of Vietnamese Americans in the Gulf Coast. Between 35,000 and 50,000 Vietnamese Americans reside in the region impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Over half of these lived in Louisiana, which suffered the brunt of the damage due to the combined hits of two hurricanes, extensive storm surges and severe flooding when Lake Pontchartrain broke through the New Orleans levee system. More than half of the Vietnamese in Louisiana, approximately 14,000 people were concentrated in the devastated New Orleans metropolitan area. Heading into the 21st century, the Vietnamese comprised the largest immigrant group in Louisiana (14.5%).

WHO: **National Congress of Vietnamese Americans (NCVA).** Founded in 1986, the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community advocacy organization working to advance the cause of Vietnamese Americans by participating actively and fully as civic minded citizens engaged in the areas of education, culture and civil liberties.

National CAPACD is a national advocacy organization dedicated to meeting the housing and community development needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Founded in 1999, National CAPACD's member organizations provide an array of community development programs and services to AAPI, immigrant, refugee, minority and low-income populations for three decades.

The **Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)**, founded in 1994 by then Congressman Norman Mineta, is comprised of members of Congress (both the House and Senate) who have strong interests in promoting Asian Pacific American (APA) issues and advocating the concerns of APAs. CAPAC is bipartisan and bi-cameral.

Confirmed community speakers include: Representatives from **NCVA**, the **National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies**, **Mary Queen of Vietnam Church**, and **Boat People SOS**.

WHEN: Thursday, September 14, 2006, NOON

WHERE: **2318 Rayburn House Office Building**

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For more information, please go to the website of the **National Congress of Vietnamese Americans** at www.ncvaonline.org.