

# Five former presidents ask Americans to help hurricane victims

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Former presidents (from right) Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter gather on stage at the opening of a hurricane relief concert in College Station, Texas, October 21, 2017. The concert raised money for relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, Hurricane Irma hit Florida, and Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Photo by: AP Photo/LM Otero

AUSTIN, Texas — Hurricanes brought horror to the U.S. this summer. Many people were killed or hurt. Others lost their homes.

Now, a famous team has come together to help. They are the five past presidents still living. They are Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush.

The group appeared together at a concert on October 21. They hoped to raise money for victims of the storms. The storms hit Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The presidents gathered in College Station, Texas. It is home to Texas A&M University. George H.W. Bush has a library named after him there. At the event, he appeared in a wheelchair.

Pop star Lady Gaga appeared at the concert. Texas musician Lyle Lovett also performed.

## **They Are Raising Millions Of Dollars For Victims**

The presidents began raising relief money on September 7. They have helped raise \$31 million.

President Donald Trump appeared at the event in a video. He called the past presidents "some of America's finest public servants." In the past, Trump has had unkind words for the past presidents.

Trump also praised Americans for coming together to help one another.

Obama, George W. Bush, Carter and Clinton made brief speeches. They did not mention Trump. George H.W. Bush did not speak but smiled and waved to the crowd. They all asked for the country to come together to help those hurt by the hurricanes.

## **They Are Good At Getting People To Donate Money**

The last time the five were together was in 2013.

Former presidents have joined forces in the past. George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton raised money together in 2004. That year, South Asia was hit by a tsunami. In 2005, they also raised money for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Clinton and George W. Bush helped raise money for Haiti in 2011 after it was hit by an earthquake.

Brandon Rottinghaus is a professor at the University of Houston. He says presidents are very good at convincing people to give money.

## **They Cause Less Disagreement**

Some have said Trump's government was slow at first to help Puerto Rico. Trump said the island has "poor leadership."

Past presidents cause less disagreement, Rottinghaus says.

A past president is like "the nation's grandfather," he says.

## **There Were A Few Deadly Hurricanes**

Hurricane Harvey hit Texas and Louisiana on August 25. It brought flooding in Houston and killed more than 80 people.

Hurricane Irma then hit Florida. Hurricane Maria battered Puerto Rico. Both storms hurt the U.S. Virgin Islands. They are islands in the Caribbean.

**Quiz**

- 1 Which sentence from the article BEST states a MAIN idea of the entire article?
  - (A) They are the five past presidents still living.
  - (B) Texas musician Lyle Lovett also performed.
  - (C) In 2005, they also raised money for victims of Hurricane Katrina.
  - (D) He says presidents are very good at convincing people to give money.
  
- 2 What is the MAIN idea of the section "They Are Raising Millions Of Dollars For Victims"?
  - (A) Trump supported the past presidents, but he has not always.
  - (B) Trump likes when people in the United States help one another.
  - (C) Past presidents did not mention current President Trump.
  - (D) Past presidents started raising money in early September.
  
- 3 Which event happened FIRST in the article?
  - (A) Past presidents came together to help.
  - (B) Hurricanes damaged the United States.
  - (C) President Trump slowly helped Puerto Rico.
  - (D) Past presidents gave speeches at the concert.
  
- 4 WHY was this concert organized by past presidents important?
  - (A) Past presidents had to raise money because Trump did not.
  - (B) The concert event included famous singers like Lady Gaga.
  - (C) Past presidents are good at raising money to help people.
  - (D) Leaders from the government came to the concert.

**Answer Key**

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