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# I. The Return of the Human Factor

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## A Sublime Moment in Houston

by Dan Leach

Aug. 6—Those of us in the LaRouche movement in Houston were witness not only to a terrible tragedy over the last week, but also to the manifestation of a powerful and profound principle. Not only did literally thousands of first responders—police, firemen, National Guard, Coast Guard, and other agencies—from as far away as New York and Boston pour in to help in the rescue operations, risking their lives repeatedly—but many more thousands of ordinary people came here from all over the country with boats, canoes, trucks, or anything that could float or get through high water, to help save the lives of people they had never met.

One policeman and several civilians did, indeed, lose their lives while doing this. It was deeply inspiring to see so many examples of selfless giving, cooperation, and downright heroism which the emergency brought out.

Everyone, from news reporters to ordinary residents, sensed that, in that moment, there were no political, racial, or religious differences—there were only human beings who were in danger or suffering and needed help. People who had just been evacuated, and had lost their own homes, were back out there immediately helping to get others to safety.

Perhaps the most poignant image was that of a “red-neck”—maybe part of the famous so-called “Cajun Navy” who came over from Louisiana with their boats—with a big Confederate flag on the side of his boat, rescuing African-American and Hispanic families. Any notion one may have had less than a month ago, in the



U.S. Coast Guard

*U.S. Marine officers performing search and rescue operations in Lumberton, Texas, Aug. 31, 2017, in which they rescued over 300 people in this operation alone.*

aftermath of the events in Charlottesville, that America was hopelessly divided and engulfed in hate and paranoia, seemed to vanish.

But the tragic deaths of Donald and Rochelle Rogers, the father and step-mother of LaRouche PAC Policy Committee member Kesha Rogers, in the aftermath of the storm, involve a deeper principle. Yes, they were indeed tragic, because so unnecessary—if only we had lived up to the legacy of past generations and made the investments in the infra-

structure projects which would have mitigated the effects of the flooding, they would never have died. And the fact that when they died, they were attempting to drive to a nearby town to help a relative whom they believed to be in danger, not only speaks to the beauty of their souls, but heightens the tragedy.

But there is a profound sense in everyone touched by this and the other stories of human loss, that we must commit ourselves to a future in which this never happens again. As in war, where there inevitably is suffering and death—if the peace is truly won, the sacrifice of those lives was not in vain.

There is the palpable presence of a spirit in all of this, both of tremendous sadness and the frailty of human existence—but at the same time of the goodness and potential nobility in most people.

It is the mission of true political leadership to evoke this and marshal it to achieve its great historical purpose. This is the mission for which our association, because we understand this, is so uniquely qualified and so needed.