



Congressman Ben Cardin

Maryland's Third District



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Dear Friends,

My thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake-generated tsunamis that struck numerous countries in South Asia and East Africa. This enormous natural disaster, which has so far claimed more than 150,000 lives, requires a robust response from the international community.

I am pleased that the United States is taking a leading role in the relief and recovery efforts. It is clear that the need for emergency aid and financial assistance to the affected countries will continue for many months, and maybe even years. I am proud of the outpouring of support from the American people and our partnership with the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the international community in rendering humanitarian assistance throughout the region. The President has requested \$350 million in immediate aid, and I will be working in Congress to provide additional help as long-term rebuilding needs are identified.

I also know that many Americans want to continue to help. On the homepage of my web site -- [click here](#) -- I have listed Tsunami Relief Information that will make it easy for you to help. In addition, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has compiled a list of relief organizations working in the disaster area. For daily updates on tsunami disaster relief efforts and for information about nonprofit organizations working on the relief effort, please [click here](#) to visit the USAID web site.

I also want to commend President Bush for enlisting former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton to spearhead a nationwide charitable fundraising drive to aid the victims of the tsunami. For more information about their efforts, please [click here](#) to go to the web site.

Americans are a generous people, and I know that we will do all we can for those who have been affected by this horrific natural disaster.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress

P.S. For those who do not wish to get my E-News Updates, click on the "unsubscribe" button located in the top right-hand corner.

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