

## Statement by Congressman Steve Rothman on the Disaster in Southeast Asia

December 30, 200

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house"On behalf of the 650,000 people of the 9th Congressional District, I extend our deepest condolences to the victims of the earthquake and tsunamis in Southeast Asia. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, their families and friends. houseThe destruction inflicted by this natural disaster is far-reaching and so many lives have been lost—particularly those of tens of thousands of children. Now those countries that were devastated by these events must begin the difficult task of rebuilding their communities and economies and providing desperately needed humanitarian aid to their people. I am pleased that the United States has already pledged \$35 million to the relief efforts and deployed Marine humanitarian assistance teams and warships to the region to provide rice and purified water to the survivors, but I believe strongly that much, much more must be done. As a Member of the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I will continue to work with the Administration and my colleagues in the U.S. Congress to ensure that the United States provides a sufficient assistance package to those countries affected by the disaster. houseFor information about the welfare and whereabouts of American citizens, please call 1-888-407-4747. For information about how you can provide assistance to all those in need, please visit [http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia\\_near\\_east/tsunami/](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/tsunami/). hous

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