

Dec 18, 2006

Lott 's son releases record to benefit Red Cross *The Associated Press*

JACKSON – Chet Lott remembers the good times as a child growing up in his family's home in Pascagoula near the normally tranquil Gulf of Mexico.

Now, those memories include the nightmare of Hurricane Katrina.

In the hours after the storm smashed into the Gulf Coast, the 39-year-old son of U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., returned to check on the home many called "Lott's Landing." He found the 1800s structure had been no match for Katrina – all that remained was a debris covered lot.

"I didn't know what to do. I felt helpless. I thought, 'what can I do,'" Lott said.

A part-time musician, Lott did do something – he returned to his home in Kentucky and composed a song called "Erased It." The song soon became an inspiration for a larger project – a full length album by the same name to benefit the American Red Cross. The 11-month project was just released. Lott describes the title track as an "upbeat blues song." "Even though it was the blues it doesn't have to be the depressing blues," Lott said. "Let's get mad at the storm." Lott said he began writing songs for the album and selecting tracks to cover including "Knocking on Heaven's Door," "Light My Fire" and "Tupelo Honey." "Every song that I covered I tried to put the 'Chet Lott' influence on," he said. Original songs on the album include "Where Am I From" and "Welcome to Mississippi," both of which Lott says celebrate his home state. Production on the album started in Lexington, Ky. in January with former lead singer/guitarist and songwriter of the band Exile J.P. Pennington donating his talents as producer. Pennington penned the Exile's hit: "Kiss You All Over." "I got a soft spot in my heart for everything that happened with those people. It definitely made me want to work a little bit harder to make it right," Pennington said. The album was mixed and printed in Nashville. Currently living on a farm in Kentucky with his wife and two children, Lott works as a lobbyist. Lott dabbled in a music career in college at the University of Mississippi, playing five nights a week around Oxford and Memphis. Last week Lott sent out 500 copies pre-sold through his web site www.chetlott.com. He said his goal is to sell 10,000 copies. A CD

promotional tour that would span the state is also in the works, Lott said. Still, the future of “Lott’s Landing” remains in question. The Pascagoula home, where the family would often celebrate Easter and Christmas, may be rebuilt, but Lott said the family is allowing other property owners to begin the rebuilding process first before a decision will be made.