

## Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the many dozens of people—community leaders, librarians, professional colleagues, students, military men, and everyday citizens in the communities we visited—who generously took the time to talk with us and to point us in the direction of various resources. We are especially indebted to those survivors of Camille and their family members who assisted us, and for opening their hearts to us by sharing memories that were often still painful, sometimes to the point of tears, even all these years later. It is impossible to fully depict what it must have been like to survive the chaotic fury of Camille; while we have strived for accuracy, we apologize if we have introduced any misconceptions or errors of fact into their stories, and offer them our sincerest apologies.

To include all of the personal accounts we gathered, unfortunately, would have swelled this book to the size of a small encyclopedia. In fact, we ultimately cut more than 100 pages out of our initial manuscript to arrive at this book. This should not be construed as disregard for the contributions of those whose stories had to be left out; every one of them has contributed in some manner to what follows, although they do not always appear by name.

We are deeply indebted to Linda Frazier, Lina Iu, David Lopez, Linn Joslyn, and Cleopatra Mathis for reading early drafts of this material and for offering valuable suggestions and to Sandy Mansfield for her unwavering support and encouragement. We greatly appreciate the understanding of our friends and family who too often heard, “I can’t. I’m working on the book.” Last, but hardly least, we are grateful to our insightful and dedicated editor, Jim Reische, for his enthusiastic support of this project. His good humor saved us on more than one occasion.

Ernest Zebrowski and Judith A. Howard  
September 18, 2005