

## A Hard Rain Has Fallen, Michael's Rock and Roll Posse

I have now heard from many friends and Posse, so I am posting here to alleviate your concerns. (I do not use Facebook.) I cannot vouch for my Houston colleagues in harm's way, and all area courts and agencies will likely be closed for weeks to clean up.

Tina and I are both on research leaves in Santa Fe, NM, high and dry, until January. (Indeed, NM is in a 7 year drought, averaging fewer than 9 inches of precipitation every year—snow and rain; Houston got more precipitation yesterday.) I will retire here in December 2018. We just bought a nearby condo to downsize, and are selling our 4BR house here, and conceding the back yard garden to the relentless and taunting gophers. I am about 3/4 of the way through finishing my NYU Press project, PERCHANCE TO DREAM: A Legal and Political History of the DREAM Act and DACA, soon to be a major motion picture

But Houston is getting hammered, terribly, so we are in regular touch with friends and Tina's family there. We survived TSs Allison and Ike. We lost a roof and power for almost two weeks during Ike, and worse, over one hundred pounds of frozen green chile. We now live on the 10th floor in a UH Lofts building, on campus, where our car is also garaged above the water levels. Pray for the city; schools are already closed for a week, to mop up if the rains ever end.

We both very much appreciate your concern: more than fifty friends and family have looked in on us.

Everyone deals with their grief differently. As Posse members know, I do so through music. Early on, a Dylan song came to mind, so I passed it around, but then I realized that I knew of more, and some of you chipped in as well, so here is some great music about floods, flooding, and rain. It turns out there are probably hundreds of pertinent songs and covers, but I chose a few from groups I like very much, all of which I have seen in concert over the years; the Johnny Cash song was a real find, recommended by Posse member Barry Currier, of the ABA.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fpbCLNyPUA> (Johnny Cash, Five Feet High And Rising)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KC5H9P4F5Uk> (Stevie Ray Vaughan - Texas Flood)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4flAZEgtjs> (Creedence Clearwater Revival, Have You Ever Seen The Rain?)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5al0HmR4to> (Bob Dylan, A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wV71ZuuWQDI> (Joan Baez, Money for Floods)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb7htoJAK7g> (Peter Gabriel, Here Comes the Flood)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eH9PE1yY-5Y> (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Lost in the Flood)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj3l9JBID2k> (Blood, Sweat & Tears, Down in the Flood)

Love and respect,

Michael

PS:

This attached picture (posted Sunday, and worsened) is of a major highway that encircles the middle of Houston, near the oil refineries/Budweiser plant/Port of Houston and even more rain fell: nearly 50 inches. It is an unimaginable amount of flooding, with more damage sure to come. Tina grew up on Market St, about a mile from this intersection at Market and 610-East Loop. What looks like two rivers are actually two major highways.

PPS:

This is where I was interim president--my office was top floor. This shows four major streets, completely inundated.

Unbelievable amount of flooding, with the worst to come. This is Buffalo Bayou, swollen well beyond its banks, and the strip across the bottom is a railroad track that rumbles under the buildings and has since been covered with water that has surged into the buildings.

From high and dry Santa Fe, NM,

Michael

A Facebook post of UH-Downtown

