



Julie Wilkinson's #19

Built To Last...#19® Outlasts Hurricane Katrina

August 2006 marks the 1 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina so we thought we'd share an interesting story about #19's ability to weather one of the largest disasters in our nation's history.

When Julie Wilkinson began medical school in New Orleans, she required an ergonomic task chair that would keep her comfortable and focused during all-night study sessions. She and her father visited at Louisiana Office Supply in Baton Rouge. *"He (Julie's father) had an Allsteel chair and loved it,"* Wilkinson said. *"He told me I needed to get a quality chair."*

Cullen Saucier at Louisiana Office Supply demonstrated the comfort and support #19 offers. He showed how the VenTech® back material, along with the seat's gel, foam and Tria® compliant upholstery, worked together to regulate temperature — critical in New Orleans' weather. And he also showed Julie how Avatar® would allow her to go from an upright to a reclined seating position all while maintaining an ergonomically correct position that would keep her eyes level with her work.

These features, combined with Allsteel's reputation for durability, made purchasing #19 an easy choice. *"It was meant to go into my practice when I graduate,"* the future surgeon said. *"That's why my dad wanted me to get a high quality chair."* That quality was also apparent when she brought the chair home. *"It's an amazing chair,"* she said. *"It was the most comfortable thing in my home besides my bed."*

Unfortunately for Wilkinson, #19 also proved its quality in an unexpected way. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina pounded New Orleans and the levee break caused more than seven feet of water to flood into her downtown home. The caustic water destroyed everything it touched in Wilkinson's home and turned all her treasured possessions into piles of broken rubble.

Everything except for Julie's #19, that is. *"I loved that chair. It was by far the thing I would be most upset about losing,"* Wilkinson said.

While everything else caught in the flood was thrown away, she was determined her #19 would not be lost. She returned the chair to Louisiana Office Supply to see if it could be refurbished. *"It was pretty amazing because almost everything still worked properly,"* said Kathleen Snead, a local Allsteel representative.

Instead of refurbishing the chair, Allsteel and Louisiana Office Supply surprised Julie with a brand-new #19. As a testament to the durability of #19 and the quality of all Allsteel products, Louisiana Office Supply plans to display the old chair in their showroom.

"I'm just amazed with Allsteel," Wilkinson said. *"I knew they made phenomenal products, but the customer service from Allsteel and Louisiana Office Supply is just as amazing. I'm a customer for life!"*