

world away, we share their grief. There were those that morning who had the luck. The Chairman of Cantor Fitzgerald, Howard Lutnick, survived the attack because he was late for work. He decided to take his children to kindergarten for the first time that morning. He lost his brother, though, and around 700 workmates—700! John, a New York Port Authority worker, rolled himself into a ball, tumbled down 80 stories as the building fell and was barely scratched. Ian Thorpe came to the door two hours before and then went back to his hotel for his camera.

John Howard was giving a news conference at his hotel a short walk from the White House, when the 767 airplane intended for its destruction hit the ground in Pennsylvania. All feel relief but also guilt that they were spared and so many were lost. Human beings are like that. We feel for our fellows, across race, religion and region. We breathe the same air, share hopes and sorrows. We are involved, as John Donne said, in mankind, and the tolling bell tolls also for us as it does for comrade, foe and kin.

We think of our lost Australian kin. Yvonne Kennedy, 62, from Westmead, a widow with two sons, had recently retired from the Red Cross after 25 years, having been awarded the Red Cross distinguished service medal. She was on her retirement holiday. Adelaide industrial advocate Andrew Knox was working for an infrastructure company on the 103rd floor of the north tower of the World Trade Center. Leanne Whiteside, from Prahran, Melbourne, was on the second day of her dream job in the World Trade Center working for an insurance company. Retired Sydney Qantas baggage handler Alberto Dominguez from Lidcombe had worked for Qantas for 21 years. He was a prominent member of the Spanish community. Lesley Thomas, from the Central Coast, was working in New York as an options trader for Cantor Fitzgerald.

For these and all the others missing and not accounted for among the scarred and twisted metal we hope for a miracle: that among the rows of stretchers and doctors waiting for patients and treating so very few, that along the unending odyssey of the sniffer dog Bear, who knows in the way dogs do how essential is his task, a human form in the dust will unexpectedly move and show that life is there, and hope abides.

There is no joy in this occasion. There is no great comfort in knowing that more lives are yet to be shed in the conflict that will surely follow this atrocity, this bestial act by fearless, fanatical, short-sighted men. There is no comfort in sharing a planet, a fragile global confederation, that has in it so much hate, and to see that hate grow by the hour. There is no victory, and there is no honour, in defaced mosques or churches or in abuse and street violence against good citizens born in the Middle East and at peace here in Australia. They detest as much as any these barbarous and poisonous acts and the inhumane organisation that planned them and fed them.

There is comfort, however—some comfort—in the goodness this foul deed has ignited: the song and ritual and the extended hands of nations met in unexpected comradeship, united by their sympathy, sorrow and outrage. In the words of a familiar song, "We are one, but we are many." In this country as in yours and at this awful time we are with you, the very many of you now grieving, in spirit and in fact, in our prayers and in our sorrow, and in our strategic support—in all this, Australia will be there.

TRIBUTE TO JACE RATZLAFF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to congratulate Mr. Jace Ratzlaff of Greeley, Colorado. Jace is a recent recipient of the Accommodation Award jointly given by the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Southeastern Colorado's Soil Conservation Districts.

This award is given to distinguished individuals for the time and effort they have contributed to NRCS and Soil Conservation District programs and is rarely given to someone outside of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jace is committed to serving the agricultural heritage of Colorado and has been extremely helpful in aiding Colorado farmers and ranchers. He has given numerous presentations on agricultural programs, updating constituents on legislation important to them, while also making this government service more reliable and accessible to Coloradans.

Farming, ranching, and natural resources are what make Colorado great. NRCS and the Soil Conservation Districts have greatly aided the well being of agriculture and the environment. The services and technical advice these programs offer, on a daily basis, to farmers and ranchers are invaluable.

Jace is an exceptional Coloradan and has served Colorado extremely well. Mary Miller, an area Public Affairs Specialist for NRCS said, "Jace really cares about the people and is very popular. He is a great representative for Congressman Schaffer." The special efforts and helpfulness Jace has given show his dedication to the people of Colorado.

Jace not only makes his community proud, but also his state and country. He has taken the responsibilities and standards of his job to a higher level and I applaud him. On behalf of the citizens of Colorado, I ask the House to join me in extending hearty congratulations to Mr. Jace Ratzlaff.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LENORD CRAFT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask this Congress to recognize Mr. Lenord Craft, the Agricultural Commissioner from our nation's second largest agricultural producing county, Tulare. Located in the nation's largest agricultural producing state, California, Mr. Craft's leadership is being recognized later this month. On January 25, 2002 Mr. Craft will serve his last day in office after a distinguished 38-year career.

The most recent figures indicate that Tulare County farmers produce commodities in excess of \$3 billion on 354,000 acres. This county's agricultural output exceeds the majority of states in this great nation.

Mr. Craft's illustrious career started in 1963 as a simple AG inspector. He performed admirably in a variety of positions eventually re-

ceiving his first appointment as an agriculture commissioner in 1974 for two small counties in California. Local governments throughout the state soon recognized his talents. He was hired by several for positions, each with greater responsibility, until the position that he always wanted became available.

In 1990 he returned to Tulare County to assume the position of Agriculture Commissioner. Tulare leads the nation in the production of commodities such as dairy, navel oranges, fresh table grapes and many others. Consumers across America and around the world, from over 80 countries, enjoy the products grown in Tulare County.

Lenord's role as Agriculture Commissioner encompasses food safety operations, pesticide use monitoring, weights, measures, pest detection, exclusion and eradication efforts. Throughout his career Lenord Craft has become recognized as a protector of the environment, an enforcement arm for the consumer and an advocate for the producer. He is respected for his even handed approach from all quarters of society. California agriculture, Tulare County producers, consumers across America and around the world have all benefited from the intense love of his job and his strength in fulfilling the mandates of his position.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lenord Craft for his many successes and years of service to Tulare County and the state of California. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Lenord congratulations for a job well done and best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE NEARS CRISIS PROPORTIONS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, when I prepare an introductory paragraph for insertion into the RECORD, my very able assistant, Maria Giesta, often has to remind to compose a headline. But in this no such reminder is necessary, because the National Housing Conference, whose statement I am inserting, composed a perfectly appropriate headline which I have appropriated.

The National Housing Conference is a broad based group of a variety of organizations concerned with our housing crisis. The statement which the NHC has issued, which I am inserting here, is very important both for its substance and precisely because it represents such a broad range of organizations.

As the statement says, "a significant increase in direct federal funding for affordable housing, coupled with a more responsive and progressive use of the nation's tax code, will be necessary in order to expand, and in some cases execute more effective affordable housing strategies at the state and local level." And as the NEC has made clear, such an increase in resources for affordable housing is necessary because "in addition to homeless and very low income families who experience the most severe effects of an inadequate supply of affordable housing, today many teachers, police officers, fire fighters, retail sales clerks and nurses are also finding it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to find decent affordable housing for their families."