

The veterans of America are the men and women deeply responsible for the great Nation we live in. The bravery, honor and dignity in which they bestowed their service in the hope of preserving democracy puts all Americans forever in their debt. From the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm, our Nation has relied on our soldiers to keep peace and promote freedom.

I am privileged to honor two of these heroes today before this Congress and the American people.

Today, Col. Mitchell Paige is retired in the great State of California, but in October of 1942 he fought valiantly to stop the Japanese attacks on the Matanikau River during World War II. Col. Paige was rewarded for his heroic action with the Medal of Honor. This Marine was acknowledged in several papers as single handedly securing the perimeter and preserving the lives of many Americans.

Col. Frederick Flo is also an American champion. In World War II he was deployed with the Army to the front lines. Colonel Flo volunteered to lead a patrol on a 125-mile reconnaissance behind Japanese lines with only 13 men in his company. His successful mission provided important information for his superior, General Vandergift, that may well have saved the lives of many Americans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the American people and this Congress, I would like to formally congratulate these two men. They are genuine American heroes and deserve our recognition and faithful appreciation. I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize these two patriots today.

“REVERSE ROBIN HOOD BILL”

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, the Republican tax bill can only be viewed as a “reverse Robin Hood” bill, because it would hurt hard-working families, aspiring students, and the people of the territories of the United States.

Why is it that the deficit must only be reduced on the backs of those of us who are struggling everyday to survive, while those who could best afford to contribute more not only get away scot-free, but actually get more.

Mr. Speaker, the people whom I’m privileged to represent are among the 15 million who are cut out of the Republican led tax bill. Then, as if to add insult to injury, the tax bill further threatens to kill my district’s struggling tourism industry which provides our economic base and on which many Virgin Islanders and residents of other territories depend for a livelihood.

On behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands and the majority of Americans, I plead with the conference committee, to uphold the commitment of the budget agreement, to reject the tax on the domestic portion of international flights, and freeze the departure tax for the smaller members of the American family at the present level so that we can continue to be a refuge for many of those same hard-working Americans who visit us for a well-deserved vacation.

My colleagues, the people of the Virgin Islands survived Hurricanes Hugo and Marilyn,

but we could not withstand Hurricane airline tax.

HONORING ELIZABETH H. “BETTY” NORWORTH ON HER FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE FBI

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to honor Mrs. Elizabeth H. Norworth, or “Betty,” as she is known by me and all of her friends. For the past 50 years she has served as an asset to the FBI’s Memphis office.

Betty began her service with the FBI on September 8, 1947 as a stenographer in Memphis, where she earned a \$2,168.28 per year salary. In 1951, she was promoted to stenographic supervisor. That same year, she married Ned Norworth, who remains her husband. Her steadfast dedication and performance led to a series of promotions including the position of secretary for the special agent in charge, a job she has masterfully handled since 1960. Through the last 16 special agents in charge and the past 37 years, she has perfected her position and learned just about everything that there is to know about the FBI. According to John Hancock, the current special agent in charge of the FBI’s Memphis office, Betty has basically been the sole trainer of all of the last 16 special agents in charge of the FBI’s Memphis office. One of those she trained and worked under was Clarence M. Kelly, the former Director of the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, I know Betty. We worked in the same office building when I was U.S. attorney, so I know how dedicated she has been and continues to be and what an asset she is, not only to the FBI, but to this great Nation. I am proud to recognize her here today.

THE EXPLOSION OF TWA FLIGHT 800; REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS AND FAMILY, PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR COURAGEOUS AND CARING VOLUNTEERS ON LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in prayerful remembrance of the 230 people who lost their lives when TWA flight 800 crashed off the south shore of Long Island, near the small town of East Moriches, 1 year ago today.

I also ask that all Americans join us as we pray for the families and friends of the passengers and crew members who perished in the crash, that they might gain some measure of solace and understanding about their profound and so very public loss.

In one tragic moment on an otherwise ordinary summer evening, the lives of the surviving families and friends were plunged into a tumult of grief and confusion. We cannot imagine the soul-wrenching heartache and

numbing pain they faced in the minutes and days after news of their loss reached them. In the months that followed leading up to this anniversary, some have thankfully found healing grace they need in the personal bonds forged with the other surviving families.

We all grieve for their loss, but perhaps what still weighs most heavily on our hearts is that even after a year, there is still no clear answer as to what caused TWA flight 800 to explode in mid-air over the Atlantic Ocean. Since that fateful July evening, there have been several studies conducted and recommendations made about the ways we can make airline travel safer. Today, there is something that we, as a compassionate Congress, can do to spare the families any further pain. We can move quickly to approve the bill offered by our esteemed colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. McDade, a bill that corrects an egregious injustice that prevents the survivors of this or any plane crash over international waters to seek compensation for the pain, suffering and loss of a loved one, as the family of other airline disasters may do. This is a simple matter of fairness and small measure of justice that we can provide, in the memory of those who died aboard TWA flight 800.

Though the headlines tell us that 230 human beings lost their lives in this crash, they are more than just numbers. Each one of those 230 were someone’s son or daughter, wife or husband, brother, sister, and friend. And each of those abroad TWA flight 800 has a story. I would like to tell you about a few of my Long Island neighbors who perished abroad TWA flight 800.

Such as Eric and Virginia Holst, of Manorville. Just a few days away from their own sixth wedding anniversary they were on their way to Eric’s brother Troy’s Paris wedding. Eric was a dentist with a practice in the town of Center Moriches, just a few miles from the crash site. With special talent for easing the anxiety of a child’s first trip to the dentist, Eric Holst decorated his office with the cards and greetings from his youngest patients, who adoring called him “Dr. Eric.” His parents, John and Joan Holst live in nearly St. James.

Virginia Holst was a partner with her mother, Luz Mari Pelaez, in a skin-care and nutritional products business that she operated out of her home. After having already bravely overcome thyroid cancer, Virginia, in the words of her mother, “got so strong, so full of energy and life, it was amazing. She had fought that war, and she won.”

Or the story of Beverly and Tracy Anne Hammer. Having just recently passed her stockbroker’s exam, Beverly overcame her fear of flying to join her daughter Tracy Anne in Paris, where the veterinary student was to deliver a research paper. Richard Hammer did not join his wife and daughter so that they could spend time together on a once-in-a-lifetime vacation in Europe. Today, he lives in East Hampton, Long Island.

At age 37, Donna Griffith had just begun a new life for herself. The Westhampton Beach native decided to celebrate her recent college graduation by taking her first trip to Europe. The Brooklyn resident was to start classes at New York University’s graduate school after her return.

Rico Puhlmann was an internationally renowned fashion photographer who split his

time between the bright lights of Manhattan and the quiet countryside of Water Mill, Long Island. A child film star in his native Germany, his oeuvre included 125 cover photographs for Harper's Bazaar and countless other covers for Gentlemen's Quarterly, Glamour, and Vogue.

In these tragic moments that TWA Flight 800 fell out of the sky, the communities of East Moriches and Montoursville, PA were inextricably linked. Aboard the flight were 16 high school students and five adult chaperons from the French club at Montoursville High School. Just minutes earlier, the students had embarked on the trip of their young lives as they headed off to Paris to test their hard-earned mastery of the French language and taste the rich French culture. Sadly, for the parents, family, and friends who said goodbye to them just a few minutes earlier, they never returned.

Though we can never forget those we lost aboard TWA flight 800, we can be proud of the many shining examples of humanity amidst this calamitous occurrence. The many local efforts on behalf of the search and rescue mission demonstrated to the entire world how Long Islanders respond in difficult times. It's sad that it takes these tragic events for us to see how selfless and enduring the human spirit can be.

From the moment the first calls came in from South Shore residents who witnessed the fiery explosion, hundreds of emergency service workers, Suffolk County police officers, firefighters, ambulance workers, Coast Guard personnel and units from the 106th New York Air National Guard unit in Westhampton Beach rushed to the scene in East Moriches, in a desperate search for survivors. Sadly, there were none.

Once the place crash had been confirmed, Suffolk County officials immediately went to a level two alert, notifying hospitals and public safety agencies. In the course of responding to the crash, Suffolk County and the towns of Brookhaven and Southampton incurred nearly \$6 million in equipment and overtime expenses. Though these huge costs drained the small budgets of these local governments, County Executive Robert Gaffney and Town Supervisors Felix Grucci and Vincent Cannuscio never hesitated to commit their official resources to the rescue and recovery effort.

We can be most proud of the hundreds of volunteers of all stripes who left their homes in the dark of night to lend a hand to the effort. They included ambulance companies from 15 communities, volunteer firefighters from a dozen fire departments and even local residents in their own pleasure boats who pitched in to assist the fruitless search for survivors and recovery of plane parts.

I would also like to give notice to the men and women of the Coast Guard Group Moriches, at East Moriches. Led by Comdr. Elmo Peters, these Coast Guard personnel performed with the utmost professionalism and courage in handling the extensive search and rescue operations, and they deserve our thanks and prayers as well. Incredibly, just a few months earlier there was a proposal to eliminate the Coast Guard Rescue Unit at East Moriches, a plan that thankfully was never approved.

As we have come to expect when calamity strikes any corner of the world, Red Cross vol-

unteers can be found, comforting the stricken while giving aid to the rescuers. From the early moments of this tragedy, Red Cross volunteers from across the New York metropolitan region were on the scene, delivering food and drink, medical care, cots, blankets, and tents. In the first week after the crash, the Red Cross served more than 19,000 meals to emergency workers, the media and others at the scene. Throughout this ordeal, these Red Cross volunteers showed once again why they are truly angels of mercy.

Red Cross grief counselors comforted the victim's family dealing with the sudden, tragic loss of a loved one. They arranged to have needed prescriptions delivered to where the families stayed, brought coloring books and games for the children and even provided notebooks for family members who wanted to express their feelings by keeping a journal. Volunteers also traveled with the families as they attended memorial services at Suffolk County's Smith Point Park and at JFK Airport.

There are so many others who deserve recognition for their tireless efforts in response to this tragic event. They include the New York City and State Police departments, Red Cross volunteers from throughout the New York metro region, the Suffolk County medical examiners office, the Brookhaven Ambulance Corps, and many local churches and organizations, too numerous to mention.

The tremendous outpouring of love and support these great Americans showed in this desperate time of need provide us with one of the few measures of solace that we can take from this tragedy. All of us on Long Island should take special pride in the efforts shown by our local disaster officials and emergency personnel and the hundreds who volunteered their time to help find survivors and collect debris. Though our hearts break with the sorrow we feel for the victims and their grieving loved ones, we can be proud of these wonderful displays of humanity.

All of those emergency workers and caring volunteers responded to this tragedy in different ways, each with something special to offer. Some came to aid the recovery of victims or gather pieces of the wreckage, while others came to support those rescue workers with food and equipment. At the Coast Guard station, mental health professionals provided around the clock trauma counseling to help the crash-site personnel cope with the difficult task of recovering victims from the wreckage.

So many wanted to come to the scene in East Moriches and offer their help. But the only thing for them to do was to pray for the victims and their grieving loved ones. Ultimately, prayer was the most important thing they could offer. Gathering at several memorial services, our friends and neighbors on Long Island came to pray for those 230 victims and for their loved ones, who desperately needed time and God's healing power to overcome their deep sorrow and devastating loss.

The first memorial service was held in Montoursville just after the crash, as the citizens of this small Pennsylvania town said goodbye to their sons and daughters, their classmates, friends, and neighbors.

The Sunday following the crash, there were simultaneous memorial services held in East Moriches and at John F. Kennedy Airport in Queens, along with the thousands of people across the country who gathered in their own houses of worship to remember those who died in the sudden, furious explosion.

At Soldiers and Sailors Park in East Moriches, more than 400 people gathered to pay their final respects to those 230 passengers and crew members, including their neighbors Eric and Virginia Holst. The feelings of grief and loss were palpable among the mourners, but as Rev. James McDonald, who married Eric and Virginia 6 years ago, explained, despair will not vanquish their faith and love. As Reverend McDonald said: "Nothing can separate us from the life of Christ, not even a broken heart. Are we hurting? Yes. Broken? Yes. Destroyed? Never."

At JFK, more than 2,000 mourners, many of them family and friends awaiting news of loved ones, gathered in a sad, gray airplane hangar to say their goodbyes. One by one, the names of the 230 dead were read aloud as family and friends reached out to console each other in French, Hebrew, Italian, and English. As Rabbi Joseph Potasnik of the New York Board of Rabbis so eloquently put it: "We may be of different bodies, but in this community today, we are of one soul."

Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today a full year later, let us keep in our prayers the 230 lives that were lost on July 17, 1996. Just as importantly, let us remember the family, friends, and spouses that were left behind to cope with this senseless tragedy. May God bless every one of them.

JUVENILE CRIME CONTROL AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 1818, the Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act. This important bipartisan effort would reauthorize the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act of 1974 [Public Law 93-415]. H.R. 1818 represents a balanced approach to reducing juvenile crime.

The prevalence of violent crime among our Nation's youth is entirely too high. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, young people are committing violent crimes at a rate similar to 10 years ago—however, the violence has intensified and is causing more deaths. In fact, between 1991 and 1995, the number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes increased by 12 percent, yet violent crime arrests for all ages increased by 2.5 percent. And, between 1985 and 1994, the number of juveniles arrested for weapon violations, specifically related to increases in firearm usage in violent crimes, rose by 113 percent. Equally disturbing is the fact while African-Americans represent 12 percent of the United States' population, African-American youth are nearly 28 percent of all juvenile arrests.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1818 focuses in reducing the number of children and youth who commit criminal acts of violence. As such, it ensures that juvenile crime prevention efforts are targeted at communities experiencing a disproportionate representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system. It is well documented that programs that provide: Treatment to victims of child abuse or neglect, mentoring,