

of the International Association of Fire Fighters. This organization represents more than one thousand fire fighters, officers, and EMS workers in Baltimore County. Each and every day, these heroes risk their lives serving the citizens of Baltimore County.

In the wake of the tragic and cowardly attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Local 1311 sprung into action. Recognizing that over three hundred and fifty fellow fire fighters lost their lives during the horrific events of September 11, 2001, members of Local 1311 rapidly organized a fundraising drive to assist the families of our fallen heroes.

Inspired by the IAFF's creation of the New York 9/11 Disaster Relief Fund, the association began a direct campaign to solicit donations for this worthy effort. Local 1311 members hit the streets of Baltimore County from September 21–23. Fire Fighters diligently worked street corners and shopping malls asking for contributions. I am pleased to report the public responded generously. While the final tally has not been calculated, approximately \$300,000 was raised for the 9/11 Fund. All Baltimore County Fire Fighters merit our thanks and congratulations.

I want to express my personal thanks to Local 1311 Trustee, Mr. Ted Moffitt, for coordinating the overall effort. The entire leadership of the organization led by President Mike Day, Secretary-Treasurer Jim Kinard, and Office Assistant Elizabeth Grove assisted with logistical support. Finally, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation is extended to Mr. Edwin F. Hale, Chairman of First Mariner Bank, for the support and assistance he and the bank provided in handling, counting, and safeguarding the voluminous amount of coin and currency collected. This group effort represents the best in America; it will undoubtedly provide much needed relief to survivors of our fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, fire fighters are truly America's bravest. I applaud the Baltimore County Professional Fire Fighters for their hard work and commitment to their county, country, and fellow citizens.

THE TALIBAN AND TERRORISM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues attention a recent op-ed in the Los Angeles Times by Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs under the previous administration. The piece by Mr. Inderfurth details the warnings that the United States clearly, directly and emphatically issued to the Taliban in 1999 regarding their support for, and terrorists activities of, Osama bin Laden. Assistant Secretary Inderfurth informed Mullah Abdul Jalil, a close associate to Mullah Omar, in February of 1999 that the United States would hold the Taliban accountable for bin Laden's future actions and reiterated the request to expel bin Laden to a location where he could be brought to justice.

I ask that the following Los Angeles Times Op-Ed by Karl Inderfurth be placed in the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to read it.

[From the Los Angeles Times]

FACE TO FACE WITH THE TALIBAN

(By Karl F. Inderfurth)

After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President Bush said we will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them. The Taliban of Afghanistan should not have been surprised by this statement. They were similarly warned by the U.S. government more than two years ago.

The meeting took place Feb. 3, 1999, at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Islamabad. As the assistant secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, I was instructed to deliver a message about Osama bin Laden and terrorism to a high-ranking official of the Taliban movement. I was accompanied by the State Department's coordinator for counter-terrorism, Michael Sheehan. Mullah Abdul Jalil, a close associate of the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, and a possible liaison with Bin Laden, traveled to Pakistan to meet with us. The bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania nearly six months earlier had made it horrifyingly clear that Afghanistan-based terrorism was direct threat to the United States. We were outraged that after all the support the United States had given the Afghan resistance during its struggle against the Soviet Union, the terrorists tied to the bombings, including Bin Laden, were trained and based in Afghanistan.

The U.S. government had repeatedly demanded that the Taliban stop giving safe haven to terrorists. It had also appealed to nations, like Pakistan, that have influence in Kabul. But the situation did not change.

The message I delivered at the February meeting went further than any previous one issued by the U.S. government. Arriving late in the evening from Kandahar, Afghanistan, Mullah Jalil was accompanied by the Taliban's representative in Islamabad. Along with Sheehan, I stressed that the Taliban needed to expel Bin Laden to a location where he could be brought to justice. I emphasized that it was vitally important for the Taliban to act, because the American government believed that Bin Laden was still plotting acts of terrorism against the U.S.—and that we would hold the Taliban responsible for his actions. The message could not have been clearer.

Speaking softly through his interpreter, and frequently stroking his beard, Mullah Jalil responded. He began with a prayer, then proceeded to argue that the Taliban's actions conformed to their interpretation of Sharia, or Islamic law. He said Bin Laden was an honored guest of the Taliban for the role he had played in the Jihad, or holy war, during the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan. Mullah Jalil acknowledged that Bin Laden was increasingly a burden on Afghanistan, but the Afghani tradition of hospitality did not permit them to force Bin Laden to leave. Mullah Jalil assured us, however, that Bin Laden was under the Taliban's control and that he could not possibly be operating a worldwide terrorist network as we had suggested. Finally, he demanded that we show him the evidence against Bin Laden and that then the Taliban would act according to Islamic law. Sheehan did, citing chapter and verse from the indictment of Bin Laden for his role in the East Africa embassy bombings.

Later efforts were made to provide the Taliban with more information about the U.S. case against Bin Laden, but they never responded. The nearly three-hour session with Mullah Jalil produced no meeting of the minds. Subsequently, the United Nations Security Council tried to persuade the Taliban

to turn over Bin Laden. Two resolutions were adopted, in October 1999 and December 2000, and sanctions were imposed on the Taliban to accomplish that purpose. Again, the Taliban defied these calls by the international community.

Meanwhile, the Taliban, and some of their supporters, tried to misrepresent our campaign against Bin Laden and terrorism as an attack against Islam. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The United States does not oppose Islam. The United States respects Islam. But we oppose those who commit or condone criminal acts, especially those who commit and inflict grievous injury against civilians in the name of any ideology, religion or cause.

Today, the Taliban and their leader, Mullah Omar, are facing another hour of truth. Let us hope they will change their mind promptly and turn over Bin Laden to appropriate authorities in a country where he can be brought to justice and close down the terrorist training facilities in Afghanistan. If they do not the United States will respond. The Taliban have been warned.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 24, 2001, I was delayed in returning to Washington, D.C. from Columbus, OH due to inclement weather. As a result, I was unable to record a vote on rollcall No. 349 (H.R. 717) and rollcall No. 350 (H.J. Res. 65). I fully support these important measures and had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both.

POWER TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 18, family and friends gathered together at St. Helen's Church in Norwell, Massachusetts to mourn the loss of John J. Corcoran, a victim of the tragic terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11. The memorial service was a stirring reflection of the life and spirit of Mr. Corcoran. From the depths of grief came a deeply moving tribute from his sister, Debi Corcoran of Helena, Montana. Her words of eulogy were so genuinely inspirational that I commend them to all of my congressional colleagues:

On the morning of September 11th, my brother Jay kissed his two children and his wife good-bye and raced to catch United Airlines flight 175 from Boston to Los Angeles, where he would resume his job as a Merchant Marine engineering officer. At 9:03 a.m. EST, his plane crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center, killing all on board and thousands within the building as the tower crumbled to the ground. There had been the possibility that Jay had missed his flight, so my family and I, like many other families, held a vigil of prayer for most of the day while we awaited official word from the airlines. Even when the call finally came, it was all too surreal I had just spent the most wonderful family reunion with all my sisters and

brother at West Hyannisport for my mother's 72nd birthday just two weeks before. It had been the first time in five years we had all been together. We shared so much joy and laughter and gave each other so much love and support for all the struggles and challenges going on in each other's lives. We headed off in our separate directions, refreshed and renewed by the blessings only family love gives. Today, we unite again as a family to ease the pain, dull the shock and fill each others spirits as we acknowledge our brother's departure to his home with the Creator.

In all these days of telephone communications with my family, we've each had time to express our deepest thoughts, our rawest emotions, and without exception they have been expressions of love, compassion, and peace. My brother and the thousands more who ascended en masse into God's light were the recipients of an energy called hate. We know this one well. We've seen it in our schools, our cities and towns, and throughout the world. We are familiar with its bitter taste. But where does it come from? And why was it directed at us—America? Do we need to look at the way we consume disproportionate amounts of the world's resources while billions live in poverty? Do we need to examine the overdue responsibility to rein in greed and waste, and the need to share more equitably with all our brothers and sisters?

It would be easy for us to shun culpability, to proclaim victimization, to extoll political rhetoric and allow military action to be our reaction. But, I don't believe my brother and all those other beautiful spirits made the supreme sacrifice so that we can go on with business as usual. Might makes right! The have and the have nots! An eye for an eye! Money is power! I believe their prayers of the families who lost loved ones and the human community at large are that we act, and not react. That we take this seed called love and grow a new garden; a world where love, sharing, charity, compassion and caring are our mantra and not more, more, more!

I believe we are at a crossroad as human beings. We have free will. We have the right to choose. Will our recourse be one of hate, anger, revenge and the subsequent and eventual destruction of humankind and Mother Earth? Or do we take responsibility—each and everyone of us and become a conduit of God's love, acknowledging the circle of light that connects all of us? We cannot harm another without harming ourselves and that is why all the world feels our pain and grieves with us; and that is why all the world anxiously awaits our response. Let our collective goal be justice for all.

As one who has my blessed brother departed from this physical plain too soon and with such horror, I choose to stand for love, compassion, peace and for a true change on all our parts. As children of God, I ask you all, to look into your hearts and see what kind of a world you want your children to grow up in, and to then decide to make it so. It is within all our power to change our world.

May there be peace on earth.

May the heart of all people be open to themselves and each other,

May all people awaken to the light of their own true nature,

May all creation be blessed, and be a blessing to all that is.

RECOGNIZING THE LIBERTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THEIR SPOUSES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Liberty Fire Department and their spouses for its work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of organizations like the Liberty Fire Department signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our Nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Liberty Fire Department and their spouses have participated in the "Pass the Boot" activities at Arrowhead Stadium and fundraising at the Liberty Fall Festival raising thousands of dollars to assist in the rescue efforts including the 911 Relief Fund, the Red Cross, and to provide for the grieving families. The patriotism and persistence of the Liberty Fire Department is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our Nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great Nation and may God bless America.

CONSUMER PRODUCT RISK REPORTING ACT OF 2001

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Consumer Product Risk Report-

ing Act of 2001," a bill intended to improve consumer safety by achieving increased compliance with existing requirements to report hazards. The legislation would increase the civil and criminal penalties that the CPSC can seek from firms that do not inform the Commission when they have a product that could pose a substantial hazard to consumers. The legislation would also help make some product recalls more effective.

The CPSC is the government agency that makes sure cribs, toys, and other products in your home or around schools and in recreation areas are not hazardous, and recalls them when they are hazardous. The CPSC oversees the safety of 15,000 different kinds of consumer products. Each year there are more than 29 million injuries and about 22,000 deaths associated with consumer products.

Current law provides that if companies have information that one of their products has a safety defect that could create a serious product hazard or presents an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death, they are required to report that to the government. Unfortunately, some companies are not obeying the law. The CPSC estimates that in half of the most serious cases they deal with, the company has failed to report injuries. Instead, the information comes to the attention of the agency from its own investigators, from consumers, or tragically, from hospital emergency room reports or death certificates.

When companies don't report, dangerous products that should have been recalled or modified remain on store shelves. They continue to be sold and they stay in consumers' homes where they can cause serious injury or death.

Some consumers pay a very high price for a company's failure to report.

For example, a 3-year-old girl died while playing on her swing. Her grandfather was cutting weeds in the yard using a weed trimmer with a replacement head that was made with metal links. The end link broke off and it flew through the air as a piece of deadly shrapnel—travelling 240 miles an hour. It hit his granddaughter in the temple, penetrated her skull and killed her.

The company didn't tell the CPSC about this death, nor did they tell the CPSC about the 40 other serious injuries from chains breaking. The CPSC was forced to do its own investigation and recalled the product nationwide in May 2000.

Such failures to report can result in tragic losses of life and limb that are avoidable and preventable if compliance with reporting were higher.

Under current law, the CPSC can fine companies for violating the law, but the amount of the fine is limited by statute to a level that does not sufficiently deter violations. Under current law, companies can face criminal penalties for violating consumer product safety laws, but they are only misdemeanors. Under current law, in any recall, companies elect whether to provide a repair, replacement or refund for defective products. In most cases, the CPSC can find a good solution to the problem for consumers. But in other cases, especially where the product is older and has been on the market for many years, companies argue they can elect a refund that may not result in an adequate recall thus resulting in the dangerous product remaining with consumers.

To remedy these deficiencies, the legislation would: