

an agreement that respects the important contributions Microsoft has made and will continue to make and that insures free competition, the hallmark of America's economy.

I am sure everyone involved would have preferred for this arrangement to be reached earlier. Still, the settlement is an important step in closing Microsoft's legal battles and allowing them time to focus on improving the way America does business. Both Microsoft and the Justice Department made significant compromises during the course of the settlement; I am pleased with the efforts of both parties and look forward to the energy this settlement will undoubtedly bring to the technology sector.

More than either party, consumers will benefit with Microsoft to focus fully on technological innovation, and with a more open market. Microsoft's settlement comes at a particularly advantageous time for New York and the rest of the country. America's premier software firm has much to offer the country through our current economic downturn. After substantial negotiations, the settlement has already strengthened the Stock Exchange and our economy. I am sure that Microsoft and her many competitors will be a crucial piece in leading our nation back to economic prosperity.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR IN RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H. Con. Res. 243 sponsored by Congressman JOSEPH CROWLEY. My wife DeDe and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Congressman CROWLEY and his family for the tragic loss of his cousin, John Moran, a Battalion Chief in the New York Fire Department, who died during the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Since September 11 we have listened to a myriad of accounts focusing on courageous men and woman, often referred to as "guardian angels" who lost their lives during sheer acts of bravery at the World Trade Center and Pentagon. We have continued to watch firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency assistance personnel work around the clock as they tirelessly assist in the rescue and recovery efforts. We have been able to listen and focus on these heroes who have put their lives first and have displayed true loyalty and dedication to their role as emergency leaders.

The Medal of Valor is a symbol of our country's appreciation to all of those who have served over and beyond their basic duty and have helped us to rise from this great challenge. This medal ensures that these acts of courage on and after September 11 will never be forgotten. Their endurance and bravery has given us the unconditional strength to move forward and to focus on the positive energy that so many role models have displayed during these tragic times. Whether it be those who lost their lives or those who continue to

assist in recovery projects, we have been able to look up to these heroes who have motivated us to reach out and unite.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH'S FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE COMPANY #1

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rescue Company #1 from the Elizabeth, New Jersey, Fire Department for their bravery and valor in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks. On November 7th, the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce will honor Rescue Company #1 with a special ceremony at the New Loews Theatre at Jersey Gardens Mall.

Rescue Company #1 was among the group of first responders to the World Trade Center after units from the New York Fire Department Rescue Squad perished in the collapse of the buildings. From September 11th until September 20th, this crew assisted in the hazardous recovery efforts. Working lengthy shifts and risking their own lives and well-being, this crew searched for survivors in smoldering heat and dangerous structures.

Since 1837, men and women from the Elizabeth Fire Department have continuously put themselves in harm's way to save lives and property. Through their courageous efforts, the Elizabeth Fire Department has served with honor and bravery.

The spirited and valiant efforts of our nation's firefighters are often overlooked or taken for granted. Therefore, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to the Elizabeth Fire Department for all they have done to ensure the safety and welfare of those who reside in New Jersey's 13th Congressional District.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rescue Company #1 for their immeasurable contributions. The Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce could not honor a more deserving group than Rescue Company #1—remarkable individuals, who continue to inspire a nation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILBERT TEE LAWTON

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Wilbert Tee Lawton. Mr. Lawton is the organizer of the Annual Legislative Breakfast which is hosted by Mount Hope Housing Company, a remarkable community development organization based in the Bronx, New York. This year, the 3rd Annual Legislative Breakfast takes place on November 2, 2001.

This annual breakfast brings together hundreds of legislators, business representatives, and community activists interested in the future of the Bronx. Ideas are shared, plans are made, and a spirit of change and empower-

ment is rampant as great minds come together at this event. The spirit of unity has always been present in the Bronx, but in the wake of the recent tragedies, it now reigns. This year's breakfast manifests a deeper sense of unity. Participants of the 3rd Annual Legislative Breakfast will continue to advance the resurgence of the Bronx community. They are aware that reaching our full potential as a community will serve as a stabilizing force for local business and educational initiatives and will also provide invaluable benefits to Bronx youth.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tee Lawton has been committed to making the Bronx a safer and more enjoyable place to live for over 20 years. He serves on a host of advisory boards and chairs the Echo Park "Drug Free, Proud To Be" Day, along with other youth-oriented events in the Bronx community. Mr. Lawton has made significant changes in the areas of drug abuse treatment, housing, local business development, environmental protection, health, and education.

Mr. Lawton has been a dynamic force in the Bronx and his experience is extensive. Mr. Lawton is an active member of the Goodwill Baptist Church, where he coordinates youth programs including the supervision of internship placements. He is fund-raising chairman for the Crotona Park Family Day. Mr. Lawton also sits on board of directors of Bronx Lebanon Hospital. He is active in several tenants associations and sits on advisory boards for Con Edison and Bell Atlantic. Mr. Speaker, I've mentioned only a portion of Mr. Lawton's civic activities. Remarkably, Mr. Lawton does all of these things while being an attentive husband and father. His dedication to social change makes him a valuable asset to the Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Tee Lawton on his many outstanding achievements and in wishing him continued success.

SECURE TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3150) to improve aviation security, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3150, the Secure Transportation Security Enhancement Act of 2001. Mr. Chairman, this legislation is a misguided attempt to provide security for our nation's airport system. This legislation continues to rely on federal oversight of airport security rather than taking the additional steps to make airport security a federal responsibility. Therefore, H.R. 3150 does not meet the stringent test needed for adequately protecting the public.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3150 is about seven weeks late in making its way to the floor of the House of Representatives. We all realize that patience will be required in our current war against terrorism. This will be a long journey. Nevertheless, this Congress must be diligent

to put forth timely legislation that will protect the public and sustain our economy. Although I am pleased that we are voting on this measure today, I am disappointed that H.R. 3150 does not address the security needs of our nation's airports.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the Oberstar Amendment which will be offered in the nature of a substitute. The Oberstar Amendment incorporates the text of S. 1447, as passed by the Senate.

The Oberstar substitute contains a number of provisions that would significantly improve airport security.

First, under the Oberstar substitute, FAA is directed to develop a program leading to 100 percent screening of checked baggage. While this program is being developed, FAA is required to make increased use of positive passenger bag match.

Secondly, the Oberstar substitute mandates cockpit doors and locks that cannot be opened by anyone other than the flight crew, with no in-flight access, except for entrance and exit by members of the flight deck crew.

Thirdly, the Oberstar substitute authorizes the Department of Transportation to place Air Marshals on all aircraft. Finally, this substitute provides anti-hijack training for flight crews.

Mr. Chairman, the Oberstar substitute would require Under Secretary of Transportation for Security to develop a personnel system for airport screeners employed by the Transportation Security Administration. When fully implemented, these screeners will be equipped with the equipment and skills to protect the public. These screeners, Mr. Chairman, will be paid well and directly accountable to the Under Secretary for Transportation. I believe that this provision is a balanced approach to meet airport security concerns because the Secretary

would be able to hold the employees accountable for their service and work product.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3150 does not take this approach. In fact, H.R. 3150 does nothing to make Americans feel safe to fly again, even though 82 percent of the American public favors a system where federal security screening personnel are employees of the Transportation Security Administration. I was recently on a flight that had only 16 passengers. After the September 11th terrorist attacks on America, Americans have grave concerns about the safety of airline travel.

While Argenbright Security Inc. says it followed regulations for screening the hijacked flights, aviation experts say the company is part of a system badly in need of a more fundamental fixing—a system where the work goes to the low bidder, not to the company with the most experience.

H.R. 3150 perpetuates the problems of the current airport security system whereby the bottom line is money rather than security. This system leaves traveler's safety to a system of screeners who are paid less than fast-food restaurant workers, and who leave the job as fast as they come. This market-oriented federal supervision of airport security must come to an end. Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, the future of airport security lies in Biometrics—a method of measuring a person's physical characteristics such as fingerprint patterns or the geometry of the hand or face. I am confident that screeners, under the current system, will not be properly trained to handle advanced technologies such as Biometrics.

Mr. Chairman, we still have considerable unfinished legislative business to conduct as a result of the September 11th attack on America. We need to move quickly to provide extended unemployment and health insurance

benefits to more than 100,000 airline industry employees who have lost their jobs.

Mr. Chairman, we need to pass the Hastings legislation that would include the extension of unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 78 weeks. Also, the Hastings legislation would extend job training benefits from 26 weeks to 78 weeks, and provides up to 78 weeks of federally subsidized COBRA premiums.

Also, we need to pass H. Con. Res. 228 because the children who lost a parent as a result of the attack on America are in need of services such as foster care assistance, adoption assistance, medical, nutritional and psychological care.

The children of these families may have developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of experiencing or witnessing the horrific deaths caused by these tragic events.

This resolution prioritizes the delivery of such federal services already available under current law. To expedite the fastest possible delivery, this resolution expresses the sense of Congress urging the head of each Federal agency responsible to put the highest possible priority on delivery, and to the maximum extent possible, to do so within 60 days of the date of the determination of the death of the child's parent or guardian.

Also, Mr. Chairman, we need to pass legislation to protect our homeland from terrorist attacks. As a member of the Homeland Security Task Force and Vice-Chair of the Domestic Law Enforcement Working Group, I helped develop a legislative initiative entitled "The Bio-terrorism Protection Act of 2001" (BioP Act). We need to bring this legislation to the floor as soon as possible so that we can ensure Americans that this country is serious about every aspect of our safety.