

As we are all too well aware, on September 11, Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda terrorist network perpetrated a barbaric assault on our Nation, attacking our military and economic symbols in New York and Virginia, taking the lives of thousands of innocent American lives in the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon.

We have all heard the stories of many who rose to that crisis, unselfishly placing their lives on the line to save others. I am proud to honor another hero, to thank, and to recognize, Major Victor Badami, United States Army. Major Badami's office was directly in the path of destruction at the Pentagon. Even though his office was on fire and filling with smoke, he made certain that his office was emptied. But his service did not end there. Major Badami assisted a civilian who was organizing an effort to move several barrels of flame retardant from the hanger to the other side of the walkway, for use by firemen. This area was within the blast area and chemical flames were burning nearby with intense heat. He was going the first to volunteer and fought through those horrific conditions until the end.

But his service was still not done. Major Badami then volunteered for stretcher duty to carry out the injured from the building and remained in the area until his detail was dismissed. As set forth in his soldier's medal, Major Badami's heroic acts are "a testament of his bravery and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army," and are indicative of the compassion and sense of duty so proudly displayed in the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. educator, Paul Zweig, once wrote, "By hero, we tend to mean a heightened man who, more than other men, possesses qualities of courage, loyalty, resourcefulness, charisma, above all, selflessness. He is an example of right behavior; the sort of man who risks his life to protect his society's values, sacrificing his personal needs for those of the community."

In this spirit, I invite my colleagues to honor and thank Major Victor Badami for his courage, loyalty, and selflessness in a moment when, like never before, his nation needed a hero.

RINGGOLD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my gratitude to the students and faculty of Ringgold High School in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

The families of the September 11th attack victims need to know that people all across this Nation are with them during their time of mourning. Hundreds of Ringgold students have signed a huge banner articulating their thoughts and prayers. I am forwarding to President Bush a wonderful open letter they sent to the families of the victims of September 11, 2001, that accompanied the banner. I would like to now submit that letter to the RECORD.

RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT,
RINGGOLD HIGH SCHOOL,
Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

To the Families of the Victims of September 11, 2001:

It is with heavy hearts that the students and staff of Ringgold High School, Monongahela PA, extend our condolences.

What can any of us say in these moments that seem to be beyond words? How can we speak to those who mourn? The truth is that we are Ringgold need not say much at all. Emily Dickinson once wrote "There is a hush in a home on the morning after death, a silence that would be violated by too many words".

We are with you in our silence with thoughts and prayers. We must all keep hope. Hope to keep living amid desperation, knowing that there is love, and trusting in tomorrow. We meet good people all of the time but in the rush of life we sometimes do not recognize them and look closely enough to realize how their goodness also offers us a sign of what we can yet become ourselves.

As Americans we will not stand-alone. Our combined strength will assure that freedom and justice will prevail.

Again we extend our deepest condolences to the Families of the Victims of September 11, 2001.

Sincerely,

GINA SASKO,
President, Student Government.

MATT WUJCIK,
President, Senior Class.

MIKE BASSI,
President, Junior Class.

MIKE WILSON,
President, Sophomore Class

LORI BARTLEY,
Student Activities Director.

SHIRLEY M. CULYBA,
Principal.

Thank you students and staff of Ringgold High. I speak for this Congress in saying that we appreciate your thoughts.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. DOOLEY

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael J. Dooley, a life-long friend to myself and Philadelphia, upon his retirement.

Mr. Dooley will retire as a Carpenters Union Official where he served his Local 454 Pile-drivers Union and Metropolitan Regional Council of Carpenters in Philadelphia for thirty-three years. This man, born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received his schooling from distinguished Philadelphia establishments and used his education and experience to accomplish remarkable feats for fellow union workers.

Mike attended Saint Joseph's Preparatory School and graduated from Drexel University with a degree in Construction Management. He continued his education receiving a Master's Degree from Temple University in Vocational Education. Immediately after his studies, he began work in his Local Union as an Apprentice, climbing to Journeyman status, then

Apprentice Teacher, then finally elected Business Manager of the Pile-drivers Union in 1979. He served in this esteemed position for twenty-two years.

During these past twenty-two years, Mike has been the Delegate representing his Union in Building Trade Councils. He has also been a Labor Trustee for the Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund and the Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Committee.

This man, more importantly, negotiated the first ever Seven-Year Agreement for a Building Trades contract in the nation. Mr. Dooley sculpted his fellow union members into a focused, united, and vigorous body.

With all of his accomplishments, Mike still maintains the greatest modesty. There are show horses and work horses, and Mike has been the man to always pull more than his weight in work and accomplishes his tasks without asking for a thank you. The number of people he has assisted—myself included—quietly throughout the years may never be known, but is surely massive in number. Mike will head into retirement in the next month, accompanied by Lynn his wife of twenty-eight years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that Mike Dooley served his community and neighbors honestly and fully throughout his life. I salute him and thank him for his friendship.

THE NEXT PHASE OF THE WAR ON
TERRORISM

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the November 15, 2001, editorial from the Lincoln Journal-Star entitled "Importance of peacekeeping is now clearer." The editorial rightly endorses continued U.S. engagement in Afghanistan as the Taliban quickly retreats, encourages the construction of a multi-ethnic administrative structure in Afghanistan, and accurately recognizes the complexities of these endeavors.

IMPORTANCE OF PEACEKEEPING IS NOW CLEARER

The sudden urgency to set up a provisional government in Afghanistan shows the need for Americans to support the use of American forces in peacekeeping roles.

That support has been granted grudgingly in the past in places such as Bosnia and Kosovo, with plenty of detractors yapping that American lives should not be put at stake unless America's strategic interests faced imminent threat.

That argument is no longer convincing in the wake of Sept. 11. It's now apparent that Americans no longer can blithely assume that it doesn't matter what happens in poor, obscure, violence-wracked countries halfway around the globe. The world is now so interconnected by air travel, the Internet and satellite communication that isolation is no longer a realistic option.

There are limits, naturally, on how often the United States can take on a peacekeeping role and how large that role should be. But when it comes to Afghanistan, there really should be no argument. Keeping the peace in Afghanistan would be a formidable undertaking in any circumstances. Under

the existing circumstances it will be even more difficult. The startling retreat of the Taliban from Kabul complicates matters for the United States and the rest of its coalition. It has not yet destroyed al-Qaeda. It has not yet captured or killed Osama bin Laden. Now it faces additional responsibilities during formation of a provisional government to fill the vacuum left by the retreating Taliban.

As quickly as possible the United Nations should send in international experts—the work probably will require thousands—to set up some sort of administrative structure for

the portion of the country now outside control of the Taliban. It is crucial that the administrative structure include the eventual participation of all the country's ethnic groups, including the Tajik, Hazara and Uzbek tribes in the Northern Alliance, as well as the Pashtun ethnic group in the south, which is represented only minimally in the alliance.

As complex as that undertaking will be, the task of assembling an international peacekeeping force will be even more difficult. Preferably the force would include troops from Muslim countries such as Tur-

key, which has a reasonably well-trained military. American military forces still will be preoccupied by the search for bin Laden and al-Qaeda members, but the United States should not shirk peacekeeping duties, particularly in providing logistical support.

And Americans should be willing to continue in supporting roles in the peacekeeping effort long after bin Laden is killed or captured and the al-Qaeda network has been smoked out. America's strategic interests must now be defined more broadly and perceptively than in the past.