

The students of South Fork School heard and met that challenge. I recently received a check of \$533.00, made out to America's Fund for Afghan Children—that's more than one dollar for each student in South Fork, and more than our President requested.

The students, parents, faculty, and members of the Kincaid community should be recognized for this fine effort. The terrorists believed they could accomplish their goals with the murder of American innocents; but the American citizens have responded with aid to the innocents of Afghanistan. Nothing else could better show how utterly Al Qaeda has failed.

Mr. Speaker, as President Bush said in his announcement of the Fund for Afghan Children, "One of the truest weapons that we have against terrorism is to show the world the true strength of character of the American people." The children of South Fork have shown that character, and they deserve our thanks. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING ALBANIAN FLAG DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Albanian American community in celebrating the 89th anniversary of Albanian Flag Day which symbolizes Albania's independence.

On November 28, 1912 Albanian declared its independence by raising its flag in the coastal town of Vlora. Since that glorious day, Albania has endured many hardships but has managed to persevere. The conflict that occurred in Kosova only a short time ago tested Albania and its people. Albania and its proud citizens are entering into a new era of political, social, and cultural growth. They possess a focused vision of their future and will do all they feel is necessary to ensure prosperity.

The United States relationship with Albania is strong and growing stronger. This was evident when Albania pledged its support to us in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Today, the United States is enriched by the many Albanian Americans living here. They have made major contributions to nearly every facet of American society. The Albanian community adds to the wonderfully diverse American culture by sharing with us their customs and beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Albania, those of Albanian ancestry around the world and Albanian Americans in celebrating Albanian Flag Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

HONORING DERAN KOLIGIAN AS AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deran Koligian on the occasion

of his recognition by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce as the Agriculturist of the Year.

Mr. Koligian serves Fresno County's first district on the Board of Supervisors and was recently elected to serve as the Board's chairman for 2001. In addition to being a County Supervisor, he also serves on a myriad of commissions including the Economic Development Commission, Central Valley Project Authority Advisory Committee, Pleasant Valley Habitat Plan Board of Directors and Steering Committee, Southeast Regional Solid Waste Commission, and Water Resources Management Executive Committee.

Supervisor Koligian, born and raised in Fresno, is an ardent supporter of agriculture in the largest agricultural producing county in the nation. He has blended his dedication to agriculture and public service in a most beneficial and effective manner. Fresno County has been enriched by his commitment to agriculture and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Deran Koligian as the 2001 Agriculturist of the Year. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Koligian and wishing him many more years of continued success.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H.R. 3150

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate my colleagues, especially the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), on reaching an aviation security agreement that will provide unprecedented protection to our Nation's passengers and airways.

As we enter the holiday season, it is essential that the flying public feel confident about air travel, and today's agreement will restore full faith in flying. Aviation security is of particular concern in Rhode Island, where our State airport is located in a populated urban area. We must safeguard this facility and all of our Nation's airports from potential threats, not only for the benefit of passengers and workers, but also to allay the fears of people in neighboring homes and businesses. H.R. 3150's provision requiring all checked baggage to be screened by explosive-detection devices is an important step to enhance security and guarantee peace of mind to the traveling public.

H.R. 3150 will also provide a well-timed and much needed boost to the travel and tourism sector, which is the second largest industry in the State of Rhode Island. I have heard the concerns of airline employees and passengers, hotel workers, rental car companies, travel agents, and restaurant owners. We all agree that Congress must restore confidence in air travel in order to boost our nation's flagging economy.

Finally, this legislation includes a provision to federalize airport security, which is one of the most important commitments we can make to air travelers. Countless constituents have contacted me in support of a federal aviation screening force, and I am pleased that H.R. 3150 reflects the will of the American people.

Today's bipartisan legislation is an example of good government at work, and I urge my colleagues to vote for final passage.

IN TRIBUTE TO REV. VERNON MCGOWEN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the chair and my colleagues a distinguished minister from the city of Neptune, NJ, Rev. Vernon McGowen.

Reverend McGowen has served as the minister of the Martin Luther King Jr. Presbyterian Church in Neptune for the past 25 years. On Sunday, November 18, 2001, his church will recognize his illustrious career and dedication to the Neptune and Asbury Park communities.

A Houston native, McGowen moved to New Jersey to attend the Princeton Theological Seminary where he earned his masters of Divinity Degree. While at Princeton, through the urging of a professor and mentor, he started preaching at Martin King Jr. Presbyterian Church. His dedication and compassion were evident after only 2 years of service, at which time the Church invited him to become the church's permanent pastor.

Throughout his tenure as pastor, he has been an outspoken advocate for people who normally have no way of making themselves heard. As a highly regarded leader in the black community, he has dealt with issues ranging from teenage pregnancy to the hiring of more blacks in county offices. Over the years, he has been recognized as a leading advocate of judicial reform and encouraging greater opportunities for blacks in the legal system. In short, parishioners of his church not only found a religious figure, but a civil rights leader.

Reverend McGowen practices what he preaches, using his talents to reach out to the segments of the community that need him the most. Through his tireless efforts, he helped Lawrence Lawson gain the appointment of assignment judge, the first black person to achieve this esteemed position.

Through his ministry he spreads the word of God and provides spiritual leadership, while simultaneously, he fights to improve the social well-being of all. Now entering his 25th year of service, I would like to congratulate Rev. Vernon McGowen on this momentous occasion.

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE WORLD TRADE CENTER CRISIS: THE IMPACT ON NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, 2001, I introduced H.R. 2992, the Mental Health Parity Enhancement Act of 2001. Clearly, we all have come to understand mental health is critical to the health and well being of our country and all Americans. I rise today to submit compelling, timely remarks

about the mental health impact of terrorism as extraneous materials to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On October 3, 2001, during the American Psychiatric Association's Annual Mental Illness Awareness Week Congressional Luncheon Symposium, in which they are joined by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, one of my most dedicated and brilliant constituents, Herb Pardes, M.D., President and CEO of New York Presbyterian Hospital, gave an enlightening and heartfelt presentation about the New York hospital system's response to the World Trade Center crisis. He discussed the phenomenal emergency medical services provided to victims by the New York healthcare system and also the resulting impact on the mental health of New York City and our Nation.

Allow me to include excerpts of Dr. Pardes' October 3 remarks into the RECORD:

There are many perspectives on this tragic situation. First, it is probably the most horrendous tragedy I, and I am sure many others, have ever had the misfortune to experience. The disaster for me started while I was in my office and heard that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. I could see it on television and also see the World Trade Center from my office. I could watch it in both places. It was unreal, unbelievable, but we had to snap into action.

Hospitals in New York, ours included, went into emergency status immediately. And that meant we stopped elective clinics and elective surgery, and tried to increase our capacity in anticipation of seeing a large number of patients coming.

We have a phenomenal emergency medical services team. Many of them were at the World Trade Center within eight or nine minutes of the crash. Tragically, they got caught when the buildings fell. We lost three heroes! You cannot ask for finer people and losing them is a deep tragedy for all of us.

We prepared teams of doctors and nurses in the emergency room. We decanted patients to other facilities to increase capacity. We arranged for staff to be able to stay at the hospital, in the event that we needed them, because we did not want them to go home and not be able to get back. Volunteers came from everywhere. People by the thousands wanted to donate blood.

People were calling looking for their relatives. A friend of mine, Neil Levin, the head of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was lost in this tragedy. His wife was sending pictures around, so we could determine whether it matched any of the unidentified people who were already in our burn unit.

We had a number of staff meetings to keep people informed and to make sure we were well coordinated. The healthcare people responded magnificently. Everybody was trying to help. Any preexisting tensions between people were set aside and instead people tried to be helpful and collaborative.

We had good responses from many, many different hospitals, from the Greater New York Hospital Association, which set up a 24-hour coordinating post, from the State Commissioner of Health's Office, from the City Office of Emergency Management, and others. State Commissioner Antonia Novello came to visit us several times and helped us with replacement staffing, especially for nurse specialists.

We received calls from the Boston teaching hospitals, from the Air Force, from David Nexon in Senator Kennedy's office, offering help for burn victims with skin replacements from a biotech company in Massachusetts.

Our government officials were sensational—our Congressional people, our Sen-

ators—Senator Clinton, Senator Schumer, the Congressional representatives, Mayor Giuliani, Governor Pataki. People volunteered every conceivable way they could.

Several thousand patients apparently were seen for health care in the first 48 hours. We saw close to 800. In addition, there were a thousand or so people who came for help with decontamination and another 4000 people who were seen for behavioral health visits related to the impact of stress. Of course, there were many others who went directly to their own doctors' offices. These data still have to be confirmed, but they give you some indication of the numbers involved.

Our greatest disappointment was that we did not have more survivors. We were ready, the teams wanted to work, and they felt extraordinarily frustrated and impotent at not being able to do more.

This disaster has had quite an impact on the hospitals. We, of course, spent money on additional supplies; we had 7 of our ambulances and 2 vans destroyed when the buildings came down. We had to pay for additional staff, for overtime.

Also, the hospitals are very volume sensitive. When we stopped all our elective and routine work and then did not have all the emergency work we thought we would get, we sustained a substantial financial hit. This decline lasted for a number of days. Then, for the next few weeks with all the transportation lines clogged, the hospitals' availability for health services was made difficult. People could not get to us. Around the City there was a sharp drop in healthcare activity.

Hospitals cannot cut expenses so suddenly. The New York City hospitals face a big financial problem, which, I think, will be in the range of \$300-400 million over a period of several months. This problem will continue until we attain a return to normal function.

With regard to the impact on people, which is perhaps the most important, it was remarkable how many people were filled with disbelief. I mentioned impotence before. They have had every feeling you could imagine. Anxiety, frights, depression, a feeling of being dazed, a feeling that they could not get themselves going.

This was true of our staff, it was true of patients who came in, it was true of family members, it was true of everybody.

The psychiatric needs were considerable and increased over time. We set up two 24-hour counseling services and staff saw people on site and other places. They saw relatives; they saw psychiatric patients who had become destabilized as a result of the tragedy. They went to business friends who lost numbers of employees and those who did not but who had suffered massive stress. Our staff went to schools; they went to fire departments.

There were people who were in buildings adjacent to the crash who were terribly shocked and stressed even though no deaths occurred in that particular business.

Our burn unit admitted 25 patients. Some had moderate or minor burns and so they did not stay very long. But, we had a number who were serious. One died before arriving at the hospital. Three more have died since. We still have about fourteen who are seriously burned and we are hoping to bring all of them to recovery.

Our first patient with serious burns was discharged on Tuesday, October 2nd. Most remarkable, when you listen to him as well as many others, is the pressure of survivor guilt. His focus was: "What couldn't I help other people, why did this happen?" He feels he has a second chance. He was very appreciative to the people who had been helpful to him. He was modest, and came across in a serene and endearing way.

We have had others: a woman whose husband found her in the street after her back was burned and her Achilles tendon severed. She could barely walk; he helped pick her up and take her to an ambulance and get her out of there just in time. There were many, many stories like that.

In summary, this is a tragedy of unspeakable proportions, whose impact I think is being realized in increasing increments as each day goes by.

The one bright light, you can say, is the tremendous response and sense of unity, of cooperation. We have a terrific pride in our Country and our fellow citizens and our health providers. Everybody pitched in.

I feel that everyone is affected by this disaster. On the other hand, the thing that disturbs us most is that there were not more survivors. I am thankful that a lot of people did get out. We wanted all to be survivors; we wanted to be there to care for them.

There is also a severe jolt to the New York health system. The hospitals have already been too heavily stressed. We have to wonder whether we have left ourselves with such little elasticity in healthcare capacity that, if there were another tragedy involving many people needing care, whether we could handle it.

We have to make sure our hospitals and health systems stay strong. We must insure that they are not constantly undermined by budget cuts, so they can be there when we need them. We particularly need specialized services like burn centers when we have major disasters. When they happen, the services need to be in place. Such services are usually in academic health centers, and they are vital.

We also need to have mental health services both financially supported and provide insurance coverage so people can get services. That means broad coverage and parity for mental health. Going forward, we are not sure what we are in for, but it is important for this Nation to stay strong—for people to be powerfully together—and for us to have a health system that can be there when the need arises.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF MEMORIAL SCHOOL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of Memorial School in Taylorville, Illinois, and their important and heartwarming efforts to help those affected by terrorism.

On October 11, 2001, President Bush made a request of the children of America. He challenged each of them to earn and send in one dollar. This money, sent by the kindness of the children of the United States, will be used to reach out to the unfortunate children in far off Afghanistan.

The students of Memorial School heard and met that challenge. The students of Memorial raised over \$160.00 for the Fund for Afghan Children. Two students—Brandom Reber and Robbie Spurling—headed up a fund raising drive that collected donations from every single student in the school. In all, they received over \$160 dollars for the fund to help the children of Afghanistan.

The students, parents, faculty, and members of the Taylorville community should be