

So I am deeply saddened by the events that have lead to the closure of Northwest Alloys and the impact the closure is having on families and the communities surrounding this facility in our State. But I also remain hopeful that new opportunities will arise out of such adversity. The reason the plant is closing in large measure is because countries like China and Russia have flooded the market with magnesium, and that has put tremendous pressure on community operations like that which is located in Addy in Northwest Alloys.

The employees have been remarkably upbeat; and under the leadership of Jerry Turnbow, they have worked against incredible odds, considering the market situation, production, and energy conditions. They have been fighting a battle to try to get low-cost energy to run this plant, and they worked in a very cost-effective way to have a safe work environment.

Their commitment to our communities in the Fifth Congressional District has been a blessing. It will be sorely missed. I will be there this week to pay tribute as they close the plant and finish their job operations this Friday and to wish them well and all of God's blessings as they move on in life; and we will do everything we can at the Federal level to assist them in their next steps along the way.

EXPRESSING WHOLEHEARTED GRATITUDE AND PRIDE FOR OUR BRAVE AND HEROIC EMERGENCY PERSONNEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, the world watched in horror as the primary symbols of our Nation's strength and prosperity were attacked. There is an aching in our hearts as we mourn for the senseless loss of life, and we share the grief of the victims' families, friends, and coworkers.

As the list of casualties from the World Trade Towers, from the Pentagon, and from Pennsylvania grows to 6,500, it is frightening to imagine that the toll would have been higher, even higher, were it not for the extraordinary courage and valor exhibited by our firefighters, police officers, and emergency rescue workers. For this reason I rise today to pay homage to all emergency service personnel, but particularly to the brave and heroic men and women of the Arlington County, City of Alexandria, and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and Police Department. These, along with the Federal firefighters at Fort Myer, are the emergency service personnel who first responded to the attack on the Pentagon.

If there is one thing that distinguishes firefighters from the rest of us, it is that they are trained to run to-

ward a blaze while the rest of us run away from it. Every day, these men and women face risks and challenges that few of us can relate to. With little regard for their own safety and well-being, these firefighters responded within minutes after the attack to the Pentagon. The Arlington County Fire Department and Police Department, which have primary responsibility for first response at the Pentagon, were among the first emergency teams to arrive at the scene of the plane crash.

Firefighters and emergency medical service personnel from Arlington and assisted by response teams from around the area courageously fought the flames, rescued victims trapped inside the building, and treated and transported the injured. A few days after the attack, I had the opportunity to tour the destruction site at the Pentagon. In the midst of the ruins and the lingering smoke, the firefighters were working around the clock to extinguish the blaze and continue with rescue and recovery efforts. Response teams from the entire D.C. area, including fire and rescue teams from Fort Myer, the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and many localities are to be commended for their bravery and life-saving efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my wholehearted gratitude toward these men and women who are responsible for saving so many lives. Together with the firefighters and police of New York City, they reminded all of us of what it means to exhibit courage and valor. It is with great pride and admiration that I rise today to honor these firefighters and rescue personnel for their commitment on behalf of our country.

I want to particularly commend Fire Chief Ed Plaugher of the Arlington County Fire Department and Police Chief Ed Flynn for their leadership during this terrible time in our community. The fire chief and police chief of Alexandria and those of Fairfax County also were able to command their forces with the kind of courage and immediate responsiveness that reflects their professional dedication, their selflessness and unwavering dedication which is an inspiration to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, history will show that during a time of one of America's greatest tragedies, a heroic group of firefighters, police officers, emergency personnel, and volunteers from around the Washington Metropolitan area brought our community and our country immense pride and honor.

OUR ETERNAL GRATITUDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 2 weeks since war came to New York City, Vir-

ginia, Pennsylvania, and America. These cowards have waged war not on our Army and Navy, but on ordinary men and women who were killed simply because they showed up for work.

This unspeakable tragedy has been New York's darkest hour, but it has also been its finest hour. We knew New York's bravest and finest would respond with great courage; but we did not know how many firefighters, police officers, and other rescue workers we would lose.

Last week, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and I introduced legislation honoring Mayor Giuliani for his leadership, the rescue workers, and the people of New York City for their courage, volunteerism and enduring spirit. Through their selfless attempts to save innocent people, hundreds of rescue workers and citizens made the ultimate sacrifice. We appreciate all that they have done.

We owe them our eternal gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, our city and country are mobilizing as never before.

The day after the terrorist attack at ground zero I saw not only the devastation but the determination in all New Yorkers and Americans to rescue, rebuild—and repay the terrorists in calculated, just, multi-national strikes at them and those who harbor them.

We're getting back to work to rebuild Lower Manhattan and to keep our economy strong.

From the bottom of my heart I thank my colleagues for their swift support for the \$20 billion we've approved to rebuild.

I've never seen this Congress more united or more determined.

The airline bill passed last Friday was also a boon to New York.

It included funds to support the victims and their families. And it helped keep planes flying into New York.

Today we will make this airline initiative more comprehensive by passing legislation that supports airline workers who were laid off through no fault of their own.

The impact of this tragedy is being felt far beyond ground zero.

New York City's second largest industry is tourism.

Right now restaurants are empty. Hotel rooms are vacant and Broadway shows are closing.

Yesterday morning I met with Don Winter, a Chamber of Commerce President.

He said small businesses in particular are being devastated and that they pass under the radar screen of many relief efforts.

Last week to help address this problem and bring people back to New York Congressman REYNOLDS and I introduced the "I Love New York Tax Deduction Act".

For the next year it would allow individuals to deduct from their income taxes up to \$500 and families up to \$1,000 for spending money in NYC restaurants, lodging and entertainment outlets whether or not they itemize their taxes.

All Americans who want to help the relief effort would be eligible for this deduction. All they would have to do is come to New York and help our economy by enjoying all that our city has to offer.

Right now, tourism is patriotism.

3,000 New York City hotel workers have already lost their jobs.

The City's 300,000 food service workers are facing heavy layoffs.

Eleven current Broadway productions have closed.

I think it's important that we as a country remember both this tragedy and the extraordinary human response that is fundamentally American.

Even as the ground-zero cleanup continues I've been assured by Ken Holden, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Design and Construction, that fragments of shells of the Twin Towers which landed in the ground like daggers in our heart will be preserved for the purpose of creating a national monument. A reminder of the day our lives turned upside down. And how we have come together as a city and nation.

A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to applaud those colleagues of ours who will join me tomorrow, equally divided between both sides of the aisle. Ten of our colleagues will join me as we travel to Moscow. The purpose of our trip is to lay the foundation for a new relationship with the Russian people and the Russian Government.

Over the past 2 months, we have worked out an in-depth assessment of a way to engage the Russian people. Not to pour massive amounts of American money into Russia, because that is not the answer, but ways to continue to support those efforts that are already underway by private foundations, by nonprofit groups, by academic institutions, and, in some cases, by governmental entities.

The document and the process that will be speaking to our Russian counterparts will include a new era of engaging Russia, the culture, the economy, the environment, justice and legal system, health care, science and technology, defense and security, agriculture, space, local government and energy.

Today, I had a chance to brief our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol in both parties, and the White House and the National Security Council as well. This new initiative is designed to create a new era of opportunity for us where Americans and Russians can work together. We will also be providing an opportunity for the Russian Parliament, the Duma, and the Federation Council to enact a piece of legislation that I will be introducing in the Congress, and they are identical, that calls for a joint task force on terrorism, a legislative task force that has Russian members of the Duma and the Federation Council working with Members of the Congress and the Senate, the House and the Senate. This will follow and support the efforts of our two Presidents. Our meetings will include senior leaders of the

Duma, members of the Federation Council, the Minister of Interior for Russia, and members of President Putin's leadership in terms of security and foreign policy and the other major issues that we will be dealing with.

We will leave Moscow on Saturday and travel to Rome where we have planned meetings with the King of Afghanistan, who is in exile, and leaders of the opposition forces in that country. We will be extending our best wishes and our praise to the King as he attempts to reunify the people of that troubled country and to let him know that Americans do not have a problem with the Afghan people, that we want to be their friends.

We will leave Rome and travel on to Turkey where we will meet with the leadership of the Turkish Government, letting them know that we appreciate their support and solidarity with the U.S. and the allies, that we appreciate the work of the Turkish military, and that we appreciate their friendship during this troubled time.

I look forward to the trip. Our colleagues are giving up time that they could be home with their constituents. It is an important role they are playing to support our President in his effort to have a unified world in eradicating the terrorism that has done so much devastation here in this country in this past month.

So I thank our colleagues for being involved in this process. We will issue a report upon our return, giving the response by the various parties that we meet and making recommendations back to our colleagues about future actions.

□ 2100

TRIBUTE TO TED C. CONNELL, A PATRIOT AND TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 16, Texas and the Nation lost a patriot and a true public servant, Mr. Ted C. Connell. My friend, our Nation's friend, passed away at his home in Killeen, Texas, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Ted Connell lived a life of service to others and to his beloved country. He was a World War II combat veteran, was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a great friend of my political mentor, former Congressman Olin E. (Tiger) Teague, and he was a friend of President Lyndon Johnson and the Johnson family.

Ted Connell was born in 1924 in the small town of Hamlin, Texas, the fifth of ten sons. He dropped out of high school, but finished his diploma while serving in the U.S. Army field artillery on the island of Guam during World War II.

During his 30-month tour in the South Pacific with the 316th Tank Destroyer Battalion of the 98th Division, he also fought in Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. He eventually rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve.

While on Okinawa, in one of the bloodiest battles of the war, Ted Connell rescued a young Marine who had been shot in the chest. He sat with his mortally wounded comrade for 3 hours, comforting him in the last moments of his life. When Ted returned to the United States, he traveled to the Marine's hometown in Colorado to tell his parents in person about their son's death.

That mission of comfort and solace opened a new chapter of service in Ted Connell's life. The Marine's father was heavily involved in veteran's affairs, and encouraged Ted, young Ted Connell, to do likewise.

He did just that, becoming active in his local VFW post, and rising to the leadership at the State and national levels, culminating with his election as national Commander-in-Chief of the VFW in 1960.

Ted Connell was a friend and confidante of President Lyndon Johnson, coordinating and advancing Presidential visits to Guam, Uruguay, Central America, South Vietnam, Australia, and Pakistan, and serving as an on-scene coordinator for a meeting with Pope Paul VI with the Vatican.

He served on several congressional and Presidential fact-finding missions, taking him to Vietnam five times, to Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, and Korea.

Ted Connell also served the State of Texas with great distinction as a member of the Texas Veterans Land Board, chairman of the Texas Veterans Commission, and as a member of the Sam Rayburn Foundation.

When his hometown of Killeen needed leadership, Ted Connell answered the call to duty once again, spearheading efforts to build the Lake Belton Dam, Central Texas College, and Metroplex Hospital, and to strengthen the U.S. Army's Fort Hood.

He served two terms as mayor of Killeen, was director and president of the Killeen Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Foundation, a director of the Metroplex Hospital, and chairman of the hospital's building fund campaign.

Somewhere in all of this service to the public Ted Connell found time to operate his successful car dealership for 46 years, and to further leave his mark by bringing local airline service to his community. He opened an airline in 1965, eventually merging it with Hood Airlines and with Rio Airways. By 1974, Rio, serving small- and medium-sized cities in central, north, and south Texas, had become the seventh largest commuter airline in the country.

Fittingly, the Killeen City Council recently named the new passenger terminal at the about-to-be-completed,