

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MEMORIALIZING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. J. RES. 42

Whereas 1,200,000 men and women comprise the American fire and emergency services;

Whereas the fire and emergency services is considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States;

Whereas fire and emergency services personnel respond to over 16 million emergency calls annually, without reservation and with little regard for their personal safety;

Whereas fire and emergency services personnel are the first to respond to an emergency, whether it involves a fire, medical emergency, spill of hazardous materials, natural disaster, act of terrorism, or transportation accident;

Whereas approximately one-third of all active fire and emergency personnel suffer debilitating injuries annually; and

Whereas approximately 100 fire and emergency services personnel die annually in the line of duty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That each year, the American flags on all Federal office buildings will be lowered to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Joint Resolution 42, the joint resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 42. This

joint resolution recognizes the memorial of thousands of Americans who have fallen while serving as fire and emergency personnel throughout the years in America by lowering the American flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. This year, this day is Sunday, October 7.

Every year, thousands of Americans attend public and private ceremonies at the campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, during the National Fallen Firefighters Weekend. While these ceremonies are in remembrance of lost loved ones and close friends who have fallen while serving as fire and emergency personnel, it is also an opportunity to show support for those who continue to put their lives on the line, providing aid and protection for others.

This Memorial Service is conducted by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, in partnership with FEMA's United States Fire Administration. It is a national memorial service dedicated to all fallen firefighters and emergency personnel.

House Joint Resolution 42 joins the Federal Government in praise and prayers for our fallen heroes by lowering the American flag to half-staff on the day of this memorial service.

Madam Speaker, every year, many of those actively participating in fire and emergency services in America suffer debilitating injuries. Between 1981 and 1999, Wisconsin lost 35 fire and emergency personnel, including Mr. Dana R. Johnson and Mr. James Is-Berner, who will be honored in 2002 at the National Fallen Firefighters Weekend.

Overall, during the same period of time, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation reports that America has lost 2,077 fire and emergency personnel in the line of duty.

While the risks and dangers are reflected by the number of Americans that have fallen while serving as fire and emergency personnel, the number of those participating in this essential service to our communities continues to grow. Currently, Madam Speaker, fire and emergency personnel in America are 1.2 million people strong, and they can be found in every community of every State and territory in our Nation, where they respond to over 16 million emergency calls every year.

While we can speculate on how to better fortify our homeland, it is clear that our first line of domestic response is largely comprised of fire and emergency personnel.

Nothing demonstrates the significance of fire and emergency personnel more than their dedication and sacrifice in America's response to the terrorist attacks of September 11. More than 300 fire and emergency personnel died as a result of these attacks, and thousands of other fire and emergency personnel are still digging through the rubble, a dangerous task in and of itself. Of those still at the scene, it is reported that over 1,500 have been injured.

Madam Speaker, the response of our fire and emergency personnel was instantaneously initiated in the face of danger with the hope that lives could be saved. President Bush has said that in the face of terrorism, Americans must decide to live in fear or to live in freedom. Our fire and emergency personnel fearlessly answered that question and sent a clear message to the entire world: America will not be intimidated.

While America has always recognized the emergency service that fire and emergency personnel provide to our communities, on September 11, all Americans joined in their bond. Although fire and emergency personnel participate in career and voluntary positions with a variety of skills that defy virtually every obstacle, each of these individuals share a commonality, unity and brotherhood.

On September 11, we watched in utter disbelief as horrific terrorist acts were committed before our very eyes. Most people did not realize that our fire and emergency personnel had already begun to respond. Shortly thereafter, it was clear that an act of war had been committed against our Nation, and our fire and emergency personnel had begun fearless rescue efforts to save their own and to save others that had become victims of these attacks.

Madam Speaker, there is no siren or warning system for a response of this magnitude. It is a call of nature, it is a call to danger, and it is a way of life for the fire and emergency personnel in the United States of America.

Finally, Madam Speaker, we can join in remembrance of all Americans that have fallen while serving as fire and emergency personnel, and in support of those who continue to serve or who join this noble effort by voting in support of House Joint Resolution 42. I urge all of my colleagues to take the time this weekend, the weekend for this year's National Firefighters Memorial Service, to remember all those that have given their lives serving as fire and emergency personnel, and in support of all those who continue to provide this service.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and I would like to thank the author of this legislation, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), legislation that was authored prior to September 11, but could not be more fitting and more timely; that is, to memorialize fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

It is worth noting that 1,200,000 men and women comprise the American fire and emergency services. It is particularly worth noting that in this time that we have experienced, beginning

with the morning of September 11, 2001, how many Americans now will turn toward those who have always offered their lives, their hearts, and who have championed the cause of saving others and putting others first before anyone else.

It is worth noting that these losses are faced not only in New York, but also in the bravery of those who went to save lives in Somerset, Pennsylvania, and, as well, those who saved lives and sought to save lives at the Pentagon.

But we might just say that the devastation in New York so poignantly causes us to reaffirm this commitment to the need to acknowledge our firefighters. I believe that there is no more honor or no greater honor than to acknowledge them and associate them with the flag of the United States.

Some people may say that lighting candles and religious services and paying homage to the flags and those we have lost will not allow us to move forward, but I do believe it will give us a sense of unity and it will bind us together, and acknowledge to those families that these are very special people.

Might I cite to the Members a commentary in the New York Times about what the New York firefighters are experiencing:

“The hasty patchwork does little to match the physical and emotional devastation. The New York Fire Department lost 343 people of its 11,400 member force. One out of every 33 people on the force is listed as dead or missing. The remains of 49 have been identified. The toll on the Department is evident on the faces of firefighters throughout the city. They drag themselves to funerals, sit stunned in station houses, absorbing the losses, and pick depressingly through the gigantic debris pile that holds the obliterated remains of their colleagues. But yet, they go on.”

In the state of Texas, from 1981 to 1999, 107 firefighters were lost. In the year 2000, 11 firefighters were lost, and several in the city of Houston. So even before the tragic and horrific terrorist acts of September 11, we knew about the dangerous and lifesaving work that our Nation's firefighters perform every day.

Approximately one-third of all active fire and emergency service personnel suffer debilitating injuries, making it one of the most dangerous jobs in America. Since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, where we watched firefighters risk and sacrifice their own lives so others may live, it has become even more imperative to honor firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

The losses to the New York Fire Department cannot go untold. As I indicated, they lost 343, and one out of every 33 people on the force is listed as dead or missing. Unfortunately, the rescue teams have found the remains of fewer than 50 firefighters, and the losses in New York affected both the rank and file and the elite firefighting units.

Chief Cassano of the Fire Department's Special Operations Commands says his unit was decimated, having lost 95 of its 452 men. They are having to promote individuals who would rather not be promoted to fill in for the losses.

The losses suffered by the New York Fire Department are devastating, to be sure. But even without an extraordinary catastrophe like that which occurred at the World Trade Center, approximately 100 firefighters die in the line of duty each year. Last year alone, 11 firefighters were killed in my home State of Texas.

House Joint Resolution 42 was introduced in March, 2001, long before the recent attacks, but this joint resolution could not be more timely. This resolution would lower the flags on all Federal office buildings each year to coincide with the annual memorial service for fallen firefighters that takes place in the National Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Maybe this year we will see such memorials around the country.

This year's service will take place on October 7 in a nationally-televised ceremony. I can think of no better time to pass this legislation to honor our Nation's fallen firefighters whose bravery and courage saved lives every day.

I am very proud of Texas Task Force 1, a Texas group of firefighters who went to New York to be of assistance, and I am very proud of my community this past weekend at the Heights Fire Station, when we gathered together to raise money for the Red Cross and firefighters, and saw the pictures and recognized the need all over the country for saluting our firefighters and certainly helping those fallen in New York.

Going to ground zero myself this past Friday, I was able to see that there are those who are still working, despite the obstruction, despite the challenge, despite the sadness. Our hats are off to all of them.

I conclude, Madam Speaker, by reciting the fireman's prayer:

“When I'm called to duty, God, wherever flames may be
Give me the strength to save some life,
whatever be its age;
Help me embrace a little child before it is too late
Or save an older person from the horror of their fate
Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me
To guard my every neighbor and protect their property.
And if according to your will I lose my life
Please bless with protective hand
My children and my wife.”

This bill is a tribute to the fallen firefighters from Texas, from New York, and from around the country who dedicate their lives to saving the lives of others. I urge my colleagues to enthusiastically support House Joint Resolution 42.

Even before the tragic and horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, we knew about the dangerous and life-saving work that our Nation's firefighters perform every day. Approximately one-third of all active fire and emergency services personnel suffer debilitating injuries—making it one of the most dangerous jobs in America.

Since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon—where we watched firefighters risk and sacrifice their own lives so that others may live—it has become even more imperative to honor firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

The losses to the New York Fire Department cannot go untold. The NYFD lost 343 people of its 11,400-member force in the September 11 attack. One out of every 33 people on the force is listed as dead or missing. Unfortunately, the rescue teams have found the remains of fewer than 50 firefighters.

And the losses in New York affected both the rank and file and the elite firefighting units. Chief Cassano, of the FDNY's Special Operations Command, said that his unit was “decimated,” having lost 95 of its 452 men.

The losses suffered by the New York Fire Department are devastating, to be sure. But even without an extraordinary catastrophe, as that which occurred at the World Trade Center, approximately 100 firefighters die in the line of duty each year. Last year alone, 11 firefighters were killed in my home state of Texas.

H.J. Res. 42 was introduced in March 2001—long before the recent attacks. But this Joint Resolution couldn't be more timely. This Resolution would lower the American flags on all federal office buildings each year, to coincide with the annual memorial service for fallen firefighters that takes place at the National Fallen Firefighters' Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This year's service will take place on October 7th in a nationally televised ceremony.

I can think of no better time to pass this legislation and honor our Nation's fallen firefighters, whose bravery and courage save lives every day.

In closing, I would like to recite the Firemen's Prayer.

When I'm called to duty God wherever flames may be
Give me the strength to save some life whatever be its age
Help me embrace a little child before it is too late
Or save an older person from the horror of that fate
Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me
To guard my every neighbor and protect their property
And if according to your will I lose my life
Please bless with protective hand
My children and my wife.

This bill is a tribute to the fallen firefighters from Texas, from New York and from around the country who dedicate their life to saving the lives of others.

I urge you to support H.J. Res. 42.

□ 1445

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the principal author of this resolution.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time, and I also rise today in strong support of the Fallen Firefighters Act of 2001. As the author of the bill, I am proud to be able to help honor our firefighters.

This legislation serves as a remembrance to the heroic men and women who have died in the line of duty by requiring the American flag on all Federal buildings to be lowered half staff one day each year on the observance of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. This year's service will be held this Sunday, October 7, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. President and Mrs. Bush are scheduled to attend the ceremony.

This year's service will be especially emotional in the wake of the terrorist attack on America where hundreds of brave men and women gave their lives to save those of thousands of strangers. I have personally visited the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and continue to be amazed by the work these men and women continue to do on a daily basis and the work they have done that has saved thousands upon thousands of lives.

I continue to be touched as I attend numerous town ceremonies in the wake of the tragedy by the support that both for firefighters in our communities and their unwavering dedication to their communities, fellow firefighters, and our country.

Firefighters provide one of the most valuable services imaginable to this country and its people, that of saving lives and safeguarding our precious lands. With integrity, firefighters preserve the safety in the communities they serve with tireless dedication and commitment. These heroes need to be recognized and thanked by all Americans, not just in the wake of this horrible tragedy but to the nearly 1.2 million men and women who serve our country as fire and emergency services personnel on a daily basis. Firefighters are our first line of defense in both natural and man-made disasters, walking into burning buildings and battling forest fires with determination and defiance.

Approximately one-third of our Nation's finest suffer debilitating injuries each year, making it one of the most dangerous jobs in America. Furthermore, approximately 100 men and women die in the line of duty every year. Many are volunteers. Since 1981, every state in America, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have lost firefighters serving in the line of duty.

Since 1981 the names of 2,077 fallen fire heroes have been added to the Roll of Honor. Ninety-six men and women who lost their lives in 2000 will be honored in October. This year the name of

Arnold Blankenship, Jr., of Greenwood, Delaware, will be placed on the 2000 memorial plaque. Sadly, Mr. Blankenship is not the first firefighter in Delaware to be memorialized. He will join H. Thomas Tucker, James Goode, Jr., W. Jack Northam, and Prince A. Mousley, Jr.

Lowering the flag on Federal buildings 1 day a year will remind all Americans of the patriotic service and dedicated efforts of our fire and emergency services personnel. In October 2002, the over 300 firefighters who lost their lives in the attack on America will also be honored at the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service, along with 81 of their colleagues who also died in the line of duty during 2001, and sadly, that number may grow by the end of this year.

It is important for this legislation to be in place to honor all of these heroic men and women who have served our community and our Nation. These men and women work tirelessly to protect and preserve the lives and property of their fellow citizens. Through this legislation, we can show our support and respect for America's fire heroes and those who carry on the noble tradition of service.

We must always remember the contributions of all of our public safety officers. In 1961 Congress passed a joint resolution honoring America's police officers who died in the line of duty in recognition of their dedicated service to their communities and amended it in 1994 to lower the flag to half staff. Today, we take the first step in bestowing the same respect on the 1.2 million fire and emergency services personnel who also serve as public safety officers.

I would like to thank all the Members who sponsored this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and recognize these heroic men and women.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, can the Chair indicate how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) has 13½ minutes. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) has 10½ minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), someone who has often risen to this floor in support of the outstanding work of our Nation's firefighters.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for her leadership on this committee. I thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I want to congratulate my good friend, former governor of Delaware, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), for authoring this legislation.

I might say that the gentleman from Delaware has the honor of representing

probably one of the very best fire departments in America and, indeed, the world. A service that is, I think, without denigrating my Maryland firefighters in any way, without anybody surpassing them in their role they play, not only in their community but in this country.

Madam Speaker, I have the honor of co-chairing the Fire Service Caucus with my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Fire Chief Weldon, who temporarily is a Member of Congress for many years, but he was a fire chief. He knows firsthand the dangers that exist. I have the honor of being the honorary chief at Company 26 in Prince George's County, Maryland.

I rise today in support of the gentleman from Delaware's resolution to require the flying of the American flag at half staff to honor not only all fallen firefighters but as well emergency medical response teams who are in lock step with the fire fighters in responding to crises.

The tragic events of the last month have, of course, reminded all of us of the valor and sacrifice of our Nation's first responders. The enormous loss of life would have been much higher if it were not for their bravery, displayed on television just a few days ago.

In New York, as frightened citizens raced down the staircase of the World Trade Center, firefighters raced up the staircases to fight the 2,000 degree fire; going at the fire, not from it. That fire was engulfing the building. Their task was to evacuate the wounded. Sadly, as we know, over 300, 343, as has been mentioned, lost their lives in that fire and in the buildings' collapse.

They are mourned today, along with their colleagues, who died at other fires and other emergencies. This weekend, I and many of my colleagues will go to Emmitsburg, Maryland, to attend the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial annual observance. There we will add the names of 101 firefighters from 38 States who were killed in the line of duty in the year 2000. In one 120-minute period, we lost three and a half times as many firefighters and emergency response personnel and police as we lost in all of 2000. That is the magnitude of what happened on September 11.

Madam Speaker, there was a newspaper ad in today's paper, and it said, "The True Badges of Courage." We have all heard about the Red Badge of Courage. We have all heard it said, "that is a badge of courage." The true badges of courage are those worn by our police personnel, those worn by our fire personnel, and those worn by our emergency medical response teams. These men and women who died last year may not have died in a terrorist incident, but their sacrifice is equally great and equally tragic. This resolution honors them and those that will follow, and I urge all of my colleagues to support the measure.

Now, Madam Speaker, let me add this. The gentleman from New Jersey

(Mr. PASCRELL), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), myself, and many others, as well as all of the people on the floor here supported the Fire Act, which we passed as a part of the defense authorization bill last year. And in that context, we appropriated \$100 million, \$100 million for over 32,000 fire companies in America. There have been, I think I am correct, \$3.5 billion worth of requests for training, for equipment, and for HAZMAT training, equipment to deal with hazardous materials.

Flying the flag at half-staff is an appropriate thing for us to do; but, my colleagues, as we vote on this resolution, I trust that we will also commit ourselves to, at a minimum, adding \$50 million as we consider the VA-HUD appropriations bill. We need not only to add the 50 million additional dollars that were put in the Senate bill to get that fund to \$150 million, but we are authorized at \$300 million.

The firefighters and emergency responders of America need better training and better equipment. We give billions of dollars to law enforcement throughout this country. It is right and proper that we do so. But we have seen a dramatic example of how critical the fire service and emergency medical response teams are in league with our law enforcement officials. My hope is that as we appropriate funds to ensure that America can respond to terrorism or to other calamities, that we will empower our firefighting personnel and emergency response teams to do so with as much safety to themselves and much effectiveness on behalf of the safety of others as we can possibly do.

And so I rise in strong support of this resolution. And we ought to salute that flag when we see it at half-staff and remember those who have fallen as they responded to the call to save lives, protect property, and make America a safer place. But let us also remember that we need to invest more of our treasure in protecting our firefighters and emergency response teams and giving them better equipment and better training to do their jobs better so that America, our communities, our schools, and our homes will be safer places.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for her leadership, as well as the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER); and, clearly, I thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for honoring the Emmitsburg event, but we need to honor Emmitsburg's 1-day event for the other 364 days of the year as well.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who was a fire chief before his election to Congress and who, together with me, are the only Members of Congress that own Dalmations, the firefighters' mascot.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time and would now tell him that I am the proud owner of my third Dalmation. He has two; I now have three. So we are part of the Dalmation Caucus.

I rise in strong support of this legislation, Madam Speaker. We have to ask the basic question: Who are the firefighters? We think they are the people that put out the fires. They are older than the country is itself. The first fire department was formed 250 years ago. They are in every community, 32,000 departments. But they do not just fight the fires. They are the first in on the floods, the hurricanes, the tornadoes, and the earthquakes. They rescue the cats in the trees. They pump the cellars out when they are flooded. When a child is lost, they are the first ones to organize a search party.

□ 1500

The places where they work are where the Boy Scout troops meet and the Girl Scout troops meet. It is where you vote on election day. They organize the parades, the July 4 celebrations. They are the heart and soul of America. There is no single group of people in this country, none, that does what our firefighters do.

Eighty-five percent of them are volunteers. Imagine, Madam Speaker, having our police department hold a chicken dinner to raise the money to buy a police car. Imagine asking our highway department to have a tag day to buy the garbage truck. Yet, all across America, fire departments, many of them volunteer, go out and scrape to raise the dollars to protect their towns.

They are now being asked to deal with unbelievable disasters. The World Trade Center is the epitome of what can occur, but they were there. I was on the scene Friday when it happened. I was talking to the head of the local union, Kevin Gallaher, and to the national president, Harold Schaitberger. They said firefighters have made it to the 80th floor to rescue people coming down.

The least we can do is to have our country pay tribute to them. The least we can do is do what my colleague said and start to fund them at somewhere near the level that our military and police officers get. Our military gets \$300 billion a year. Our police officers get \$4 billion a year from the Federal Government. The amount of money our fire and emergency service workers get is \$100 million for the first time this year. We can do better.

I support this legislation. I congratulate my good friend and colleague and my other good friend and colleague and the chairman of the committee. I ask my colleagues to vote for the flag but vote for the support of our America's heroes, our fire and EMS personnel.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, for yielding me time. I thank the gentleman for bringing this bill to the floor. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for her leadership.

I certainly want to rise in strong support of memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for introducing this legislation, which I hope will have unanimous support of this House. These brave men and women have given the ultimate sacrifice in answering the call to help.

Yesterday, with some other Members of the House, I visited New York City and saw ground zero for the first time. It is indeed ground zero. The devastation was more than ever could have been envisioned, and I know I will never forget what I saw there.

What is even more indelibly stamped in my mind is the obvious evidence of heroism that has taken place at that site. We all know of the heroic actions made by firefighters and rescue workers in the moments after the planes first struck the towers. But they have continued to compromise their safety since September 11 while searching the World Trade Center for survivors and in aiding in the monumental clean-up efforts.

Words cannot express our gratitude for their hard work and their sacrifice during these difficult times. As a matter of fact, 343 of these firefighters became victims themselves.

The bravery that New York has demonstrated during these times is also occurring here in the Washington, D.C. area. Firefighters, police, and other search and rescue workers have been working at the Pentagon to support our Nation's recovery efforts. I visited with rescue workers there shortly after the terrible tragic event occurred and noted their search for potential survivors of the terrorist attacks. The courageous workers at the Pentagon, and I want to single out the Montgomery County, Maryland, Urban Search and Rescue Team, 70 strong, like the rescue workers in New York, demonstrated selfless acts of heroism as they searched for survivors of the tragedy.

All of these rescue workers during this tragedy, like all firefighters and rescue workers before and since, endure the shock, sadness and loss that we all feel from witnessing horrific events. However, they preserve, through the experience, working hard to meet the needs of our neighbors and friends who have been personally impacted by devastating events, such as the attacks on September 11. They persevere. We should certainly give them credit.

This gesture of memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American

flag to half-staff is an important way of honoring those individuals who have valiantly given the ultimate sacrifice to protect their neighbors. Therefore, I do urge all Members to support this legislation, to help to remember our fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and to remember them in our prayers.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization of the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

I want to associate myself with the very passionate, pointed and eloquent remarks of all of those who have spoken.

It occurs to me, as it does all of us, that during and since September 11 when the terrorist attack took place, we have seen many indications of heroics. We have seen many people rise to the occasion. But, of course, firefighters rise to the occasion each and every day of their lives, whether there is a national crisis or not. They wake up in the morning, knowing that they are going to an uncertain future. I commend all of those who would pause, stop for a moment, and pay tribute to these men and women. It seems to me there is nothing less we could do than to make sure that there is adequate compensation and appropriated resources for their needs.

Finally, I remember a poem that I grew up listening to, "The Charge of the Light Brigade." It seems to me that the words of that poem suggested that "Their's not to reason why, their's but to do and die . . . into the jaws of Death . . . they rode.

Madam Speaker, these men and women ride or walk each and every day into an uncertain future. They are to be commended, and I commend the author of this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his eloquent support of this legislation; and finally say, firefighters appeared on September 11 at the World Trade Centers, Pentagon, and Somerset, Pennsylvania, as they appear in our neighborhoods around the Nation.

I thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and his cosponsors for this legislation and associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) and the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and advocate for greater funding for the fire act. We must do no less, for when I went home, my firefighters asked me about greater funding. I believe the tragic events of September 11, along with this very important legisla-

tion, refocuses on these valiant heroes who offer their lives every day. We must fund them at the maximum amount. I ask support for H.J. Res. 42.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 42, which would require American flags on all federal office buildings to be lowered to half-staff in honor of the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

H.J. Res. 42 recognizes the over 300 New York firefighters who gave their lives to save others during the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, more public safety officers were lost in the terrorist attack on the United States than any other single event in modern history.

What happened at the World Trade Center will live in our memories forever. We can be proud that at a time of great peril, New York's firefighters answered the call. They conducted themselves with a selflessness and dedication that does credit to themselves, their city, and their country.

This resolution also recognizes the heroic firefighters in every small town and suburb and big city across America who gave their lives. Last year in Michigan alone, four firefighters died in duty-related incidents. Each of these deaths is a tragedy for family, friends, and community.

I will not forget their sacrifice, and neither will America. This resolution honors all those who gave their lives to protect their communities. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 42, resolving that each year the American flags on U.S. Federal buildings will fly at half staff in memory of our Nation's fallen firefighters.

As our Nation moves forward with steadfast resolve in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks, we remember the bravery and selfless sacrifices of all the men and women in uniform who rushed in to save their fellow citizens in emergency situations throughout the history of our great Nation. On average, our Nation loses over 100 firefighters in the line of duty each year. This sad statistic will regrettably increase at least threefold this year.

In my own district we lost over 35 firefighters and police officers in the barbaric September 11th attacks on New York. That is more firefighters in one day from one congressional district than the entire state of New York lost between 1998 and 2000. The grief and anger which we share with the families of our firefighters, police officers, and fellow citizens strengthens our collective resolve. We are comforted by the undaunted courage of our fallen firefighters and the love and dedication they had for their chosen profession.

Many more will follow proudly and courageously in this uncommon profession. Many more may have to pay the ultimate sacrifice. It is a small but proper tribute to these brave men and women that we ask our nation to remember their sacrifices by lowering our nation's flag in their memory. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to fully support this important, timely bill.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, certainly, nothing will memorialize the courageous and outstanding firefighters of this nation, more than the vivid pictures of them responding so selflessly, endangering and too often

sacrificing their own lives to save those placed in peril by the terrorists actions of September 11th. Their heroism continues even today, and will be evident far into the future in their addressing of this tragedy as it is in the everyday lives of all Americans.

I am proud of the work of our Virgin Island firefighters, who have worked tirelessly and with inadequate and substandard equipment to protect the property and the lives of my constituents. That is why our offices worked so hard to bring them badly needed equipment dollars. I thank FEMA for hearing our pleas, and providing close to \$1 million to provide the tools they need to do the job they have committed themselves to.

We are deeply and forever indebted to the over 300 firefighters who did not make it out of the World Trade building and eventual debris alive. We are also indebted to their families. I also thank the VI firefighters for their raising funds for their families and traveling to New York City to offer support and help. We also today and this week remember all of our nation's firemen and women who have fallen in the line of duty.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Parks Recreation, and Public Lands I want to especially remember those who have given their lives in fighting fires in our nations parks and public lands, and in protecting them and neighboring properties.

So I gladly join my colleagues in support of H.J. Res. 42 memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg Maryland.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 42, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING CAL RIPKEN, JR.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H.Res. 247) honoring Cal Ripken, Jr., for an outstanding career, congratulating him on his retirement, and thanking him for his contributions to baseball, to the State of Maryland, and to the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 247

Whereas Cal Ripken, Jr., played in 2,632 consecutive Major League Baseball games