

knowledge and experience, he was recently appointed to the MBTA Advisory Board, elected as a member to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and has served as chairman of the Essex County Advisory Board since 1983. The Massachusetts Municipal Association benefited from his service on its board of directors as well as the Local Governors Advisory Committee, which he started serving on in 1983.

The honors and citations, if stacked, reach to the sky; honored by the AARP in 1998, Peabody's Veterans Council in that same year, and honored by the Anti-Defamation League the year before. His housing efforts won the acclaim of the Citizens for Adequate Housing Community Service Award at the beginning of the 1990s, he was the North Shore Chamber of Commerce's "Man of the Year," in 1991, and was honored by the President of Portugal with "Command of the Special Order of Infant Henry the Navigator" award in 1996.

Every public official is ultimately judged by the impact their policies have after the official has left office. In this way, generations of Peabody's children will be Peter's legacy, since thousands of children went through Peabody public schools during Mayor Torigian's time, and now their children are doing the same. The business growth in Peabody during Peter's term stands in stark contrast to the aged and fading industrial based that he inherited, and now the residents enjoy a robust economic climate while at the same time maintaining the New England flavor of the community.

I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man who has assembled an inspiring and very real list of achievements. I regard myself as fortunate to have him as a friend and colleague in government, and I join the families of Peabody and his peers throughout the State in celebrating his exemplary public service and in wishing him godspeed as he moves on to new horizons.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Peter Torigian, the outstanding Mayor of Peabody, MA, who is retiring at the end of this year. He has served the people of Peabody with great skill and dedication for the past 22 years, and I know they join me in thanking him for his commitment and dedication to public service.

Mayor Torigian will long be remembered for the revitalization of Peabody's economy. He skillfully guided the transformation of an old manufacturing base into a thriving new office complex known as Centennial Park.

His impressive record of success in promoting economic development in Peabody and throughout the region is well known. He was instrumental in the development of the North Shore Mall, creating thousands of new jobs, the lowest corporate tax rate and the broadest tax base in all of Massachusetts.

He's also done an outstanding job in preserving open space and in cleaning up brownfields in the area. Brook Farm is a magnificent example of Mayor Torigian's commitment to the environment.

Under Mayor Torigian's leadership, Peabody has thrived on its diversity as well. Peabody recently celebrated its 18th annual International Festival, in which thousands of people visited the city to celebrate its history and its heritage.

And Mayor Torigian's commitment to senior citizens has been unwavering. He created the Peabody Community Life Center, a remarkable center for seniors on the North Shore to gather and enhance their quality of life.

All of us in Massachusetts are grateful for Mayor Torigian's distinguished service to the City of Peabody and to our State, and we're grateful for his friendship. We know that his commitment to public service will continue in other ways, and he will be deeply missed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York.

THE LOSS OF FLIGHT 587

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to express profound sorrow for the loss of life caused by the tragic crash of American Airlines flight 587 in the residential community of Belle Harbor, Rockaway, Queens, and the loss of 246 passengers and 9 crewmembers who were traveling to the Dominican Republic, as well as the loss of life on the ground where the plane crashed. It has added to the immeasurable sadness that New York and America have been forced to bear since the horrific events of September 11.

It is impossible to speak about the destruction that happened yesterday without recognizing the overwhelming sacrifices of the residents of the Rockaways. They have already contributed greatly to the defense of our city and our Nation. The families in this part of Queens have had to attend more funerals in the past 2 months than anyone should have to bear. They have lost many people who worked at the World Trade Center, as well as the numerous firefighters and police officers who make up this close-knit community. The courage and the values of these New Yorkers, these Americans, these public servants, have brought comfort to so many and have stood as a shining example of what is best of America.

I think it is fair to say that our entire country stands in awe of their acts of bravery and self-sacrifice. It was doubly tragic to see the loss of life in this accident and to know that it happened in an area where lives were just beginning to resume some sense of normalcy and then were so horribly disrupted again.

As I walked around the crash area with FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh yesterday, I was able to show him a neighborhood that I think came as a bit of a

surprise. Joe has done a very good job, just a terrific job as our FEMA Director, in the time he has been in that position. He responded with just great dispatch and compassion to the World Trade Center attacks.

I think being in Lower Manhattan and seeing the community there was one view of New York. But being in Belle Harbor, seeing the single-family homes that could be found in so many other communities around our country, was a reminder of the diversity that is New York. We have so many different kinds of neighborhoods. Yet in every one of them we will find people who are stalwart, steadfast, and willing to work hard and play by the rules, and who oftentimes have contributed to the greatness of that city and, in turn, our State and country.

Senator SCHUMER, Congressman WEINER, and I will be asking FEMA to include this tragedy in Queens as part of the presidentially declared disaster. We believe the members of these affected communities, including the Dominican community in Washington Heights, Brooklyn, and elsewhere, and the Rockaway neighborhood where the plane fell to Earth, should have access to the disaster services they need and deserve.

Although all of us in New York and America experienced a terrible shock yesterday upon learning of the crash, we know there was one particular segment of our community that was very hard hit. Initial estimates indicate that anywhere from 150 to 175 of the passengers on board flight 587 were Dominican-Americans, or Dominicans. New York's Dominican community, which is centered in Washington Heights, is a strong and vibrant cultural sector tucked into northern Manhattan, almost on the opposite end of where the World Trade Center once stood.

Our Dominican community, with all of its excitement, its energy, its culture, and colorful history, has contributed greatly to the soul of New York City. Dominican-Americans have made many contributions to business and the arts, to labor and politics, and their contributions are really just beginning. They have also maintained strong ties with the Dominican Republic and the people who live there.

Although it is growing rapidly, New York City's Dominican community is renowned for its smalltown feeling in a city obviously famous for its huge size. But a tragedy such as the one that happened yesterday reverberated across the entire community because virtually everyone knows someone who has lost a loved one.

The community's response to this latest tragedy has been an outpouring of relief. We have seen that a crisis center for families has been already set up in Washington Heights. We have seen Dominican-American elected officials rallying around, serving their constituents. We know the kind of efforts that will be undertaken by the

Dominican-American community will bring great comfort and support to those who have lost loved ones.

Now we have to do whatever we can as the larger New York and American community to stand with and support these families. I spent some time last night at the Ramada Inn, that was set up at JFK Airport for the families to come seeking information and help. It was a grueling and wrenching experience. Many of the families there lost not just one member but several. I met one young man who lost his wife, his daughter, and his mother-in-law because they were going to the Dominican Republic to attend the funeral of a relative.

I met another young man who proudly held the picture of his brother who had just gotten back from his tour of duty on the U.S.S. *Enterprise* in support of our efforts in Afghanistan. He had just come back home and was going down to see friends and relatives. His family was so proud of this young man who had served our country.

There are many stories such as that which we will hear over the days and weeks ahead.

Of course, all that any of us can do is to promise our support and whatever assistance is needed; to offer our thoughts and our prayers; to stand with the government and the people of the Dominican Republic for whom this is a profound and unsettling tragic occurrence; to demonstrate clearly in all that we do that we will stand in the face of whatever comes; that New Yorkers are neither daunted nor beaten down by the continuation of tragedy and challenge; and that our determined spirit as Americans remains undiminished.

I look forward to working with the administration and my colleagues in ensuring that these New Yorkers, like those who were affected on September 11, know that our country stands behind them and with them.

Thank you, Madam President.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that for the next 30 minutes we be in a period of morning business with the majority controlling 15 minutes and the minority controlling 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I ask the assistant Democrat leader what the intention is at the conclusion of morning business.

Mr. REID. Madam President, at this stage, there is discussion between Senators DASCHLE and LOTT. They will decide within the next 30 minutes what is going out. I thought rather than bounce back and forth and asking permission to go to morning business that we should go off the bill for half an hour, go back to it, and maybe come back in the morning. The two leaders

have been visiting. They will decide what is going to happen later tonight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you, Madam President.

CONDOLENCES TO NEW YORKERS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise for a moment to bring the best wishes and heartfelt condolences again to our colleagues from New York for this additional tragedy that has befallen them. All of my friends and family and the citizens of Michigan have their hearts going out to you. There has been such a difficult time for New York, as well as the entire country.

AIRLINE SECURITY AND THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I would like to share an experience this evening and commend a group of individuals who were involved in U.S. Airways Flight 969 last evening where I was a passenger going from Pittsburgh to National Airport. It was diverted into Dulles, as many of us have heard. There was a situation where someone stood up in explicit contradiction to the words from the pilot about what was to be done under national policy. Once you are within 30 minutes of Reagan National Airport, passengers are not under any circumstances to leave their seats. Unfortunately, this individual did and headed towards what appeared to be the cockpit.

I commend the air marshals who were on that flight. They responded with professionalism. They responded quickly with what appeared to be a threat to those of us who were on the flight.

I commend the pilot on U.S. Airways Flight 969 who responded with professionalism. He calmed what obviously was a potentially very confusing situation and what could have been great panic. This was the result of the pilot, the flight attendants, and the crew.

I would like to give my thanks and congratulations to everyone who was involved in this incident with the way they conducted themselves.

I was thinking as I sat in the 11th row and the B seat that this is an example of what could happen with national law enforcement officials professionally trained to do our airline security. It reaffirmed my commitment to the belief that we need to do what this Senate did 100 to 0, which is to pass a law that says those who look at the baggage and those who do the security checks of our carry-ons are professionally trained Federal law enforcement officials. I call on my colleagues to bring that bill back from the conference committee with that provision in it.

I don't believe there was a person on that plane last night who was not

grateful for the fact that we had Federal law enforcement officials trained to protect the people on that plane; they responded professionally as Federal law enforcement officials.

Every day we are grateful to receive that kind of protection from our Capitol Police as well, and I think our families deserve to have that.

I encourage my colleagues to reflect on what is best for all Americans, and not what is best for the interests of one party or the other.

I can say with great confidence—and it was reaffirmed last night for me—that having Federal law enforcement officials who are trained both on the ground checking the baggage as well as on our airplanes is in the interests of all of our families.

I find it interesting now as we are grappling as a body of the Senate and the House and coming together as Americans to support the President; this is our team on the field. We are the team of Americans. The coach is the President, and we are all there together. We are supporting the President. We want him to be successful. We all need to be successful in fighting these terrorist attacks and making sure that our people are safe.

I think it is also important and it is our responsibility to be able to disagree about a particular play or a particular strategy when the team is on the field.

In this particular case, I urge the President to join us in embracing the principle that we should have Federal law enforcement security at every level of airport and airline security.

I also ask our colleagues to focus now as we stimulate this economy and put money back into people's pockets as well as homeland security. The time is now to act. We know that workers need assistance. We know the economy needs stimulus. The best way to do both of those is to provide relief to workers who need it the most. Economists across the country agree that providing relief to low- and moderate-income families is one of the most successful ways to stimulate the economy. Why? They will immediately take those dollars and go to the grocery store. They will buy shoes for their children who go to school. In Michigan they will go buy a winter coat. They may buy a new car, which we would also be very happy about in the State of Michigan.

People will turn those dollars around because they need to be able to live and to be able to care for their families. Studies have shown that every \$1 invested in unemployment insurance for those who have lost their jobs because of September 11 or other downturns in the economy generates \$2.15 in gross domestic product. Directly, we know that \$1 generates \$2.15.

So I hope this week we will embrace what the Democrats have proposed to stimulate this economy, to put money back in people's pockets, who will then use it to care for their families, to