

a victim of the Pennsylvania air crash. Mental health disaster volunteers went to schools, PTAs, and church groups requesting help in the aftermath. Volunteers delivered materials to schools to assist with the conversations with children, teachers and parents.

The chapter staff also processed a total of \$1,168,737 in donations designated for the National Red Cross (between September 11, 2001 and June 30, 2002).

At the same time, the Chapter continued to respond to an increased interest in first aid and CPR classes and trained an increased number of disaster service volunteers who came in response to the September 11 tragedies. They also registered and placed an unprecedented number of volunteers who wanted to be of service within the community.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY SHARES A
POEM ON FREEDOM BY WORLD
TRADE CENTER VICTIM DAVID
SCOTT SUAREZ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you excerpts from a story that World Trade Center victim David Scott Suarez wrote about two hiking trips he had taken several years apart, and a poem he wrote about climbing as a metaphor for life and for freedom. David writes about freedom, both in terms of the struggle to attain it and the unparalleled joy of having it. In a sense, David's story reminds us that freedom is not free. It requires hard work and undaunting perseverance. Freedom can only be attained when people work, together with others, exerting all of the collective strength of the unified group, to ascend its peak. One could interpret David's story to say that freedom is not even a choice, but rather a requirement for the realization of human potential, and that freedom should be our example to the world that we shout from the mountaintops.

David's parents, Ted and Carol Suarez, have so far had his poem translated into over 90 languages, including three of the major languages spoken in Afghanistan. They offer their son's story and poem in hopes that they will show all of the people of the world how much they have in common, so that we will always choose to communicate with each other rather than fight, and so that their son's death and the death of so many others on September 11 will not have been in vain. The following are excerpts from "Return to Freedom", by David Suarez.

My legs burned. My heart pounded. A bead of sweat ran down my forehead to the tip of my nose. I wiped it off with the back of my dirty arm just before it dripped to the ground. The air was cool and the wind grew fiercer the higher into the atmosphere we climbed. It froze sweat to my skin and blew my hair every which way, occasionally stinging my eyes. I looked up past Bob, who was directly in front of me, but I could not see our destination. The peak was covered in clouds. . . . Hail pelted my raincoat. The trail we'd been hiking quickly turned to a swiftly flowing stream. The sky lit up. Thunder cracked simultaneously. I began to hear the slow cracking of, not thunder but

wood. We all turned abruptly. A tree fell across the path 50 yards behind us, its top shattered and smoking.

Only nine miles to go, but the weather showed no signs of letting up. At night we were going to make camp on top of Mount Philip at 11,711 feet. . . . It was thirteen miles away and a strenuous climb from where we broke camp in the morning. Unfortunately, that day was worse than any other had been. Like myself, the other guys in the expedition were pretty melancholy. . . . All I could think about was the 40 pound pack and the ice covered ground that kept me from moving forward with any sort of speed. . . . It continued to storm.

I trudged on. Stepping one foot in front of the other. . . . If I'd had a choice I'd have stopped, but there was no choice. Stopping meant hypothermia, which was worse than walking. Hours later, we reached the top. My hands were red. The tips of my fingers were almost white; they were completely numb. The clouds were so thick I couldn't see more than a few feet ahead. Everyone else was in the same condition, some worse. . . . There were fourteen of us, only six were able to pitch tents. . . . We pitched one after another. I thought each one along the way would be my last. Finally we finished and everyone was safe. Then, miraculously, the moment our tent was ready for sleep the clouds blew away and the warm sun came out. . . .

That was it, I was the last man standing. I was so excited I started to run to the peak. . . . I reached it minutes later. . . . I leaned back against the flagpole that stood higher than everything else. A smile of contentment crossed my face. I shut my eyes and fell asleep to the sound of the American Flag snapping in the wind. I was free.

Three thousand miles and five years later I was feeling the same thing. Freedom, what a strong word it is. Millions of people had died in its name. Do people fully understand and appreciate this single word? Do I? A month earlier I sat out on the lawn under the shade of a tall oak attending my Asian philosophy class. After class I walked past a preacher yelling that all of my peers (and myself) were doomed to hell. I walked further and saw a stand with pictures of marijuana leaves all around, apparently fighting for its legality. I sat down and watched a couple walk past hand in hand and smiling. It was July 3. The impact of what was occurring before me hit me like a blow. I was living the dream that so many had died for. I belonged to a select group of people that could enjoy life as it should be enjoyed. In day to day life I often didn't realize that. . . . My mind and my talents marked the limits of where I could go. No one else dictated them.

Those thoughts reentered my mind as I climbed to the top of Sugarbush Mountain in central Maine. Climbing became a metaphor for life. We were almost at the top and the wind was blowing fiercely. We had entered the clouds and couldn't see a thing. At one point I opened my jacket and leaned into the wind. It supported my weight for awhile. Together we reached the top. We raised our hands and screamed loudly for the world to hear. We'd conquered this mountain. Although the steep slopes tried to keep us down, they couldn't. Although our lives threatened to trap us in dull routine, we escaped. We were in charge of our destinies, only us. For a moment the clouds cleared. It seemed as if we could see

the entire world at once. In silence we watched. We were free.

YOU ARE FREE

(By David S. Suarez)

The air is cool, the sky is dark, your muscles relax, while nature's breath fills your lungs

You have accomplished your tasks, felt the pain, and endured the pressure, a pressure so immense that you lived to escape

You have climbed to the very peak of the mountain and now relax on a rock, high above the trees while others sleep

You are enveloped by nature's beauty for just a moment you abandon your incarcerated body wholly relinquishing your ties to human nature and for only an instant, you become part of God you are free

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
JACOB HOLLINGSHEAD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Where Jacob Hollingshead has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Jacob Hollingshead has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Jacob Hollingshead has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Jacob Hollingshead must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award; and

Therefore, I join with Troop 269 and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Jacob Hollingshead as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the community of Brownsville, Texas, for reminding our children about the values we uphold with "Violence Prevention Week" as the new school year begins.

Our school years now begin with concerns over not just grades and class assignments, but also the threat of gun violence. This reality confronts students and educational professionals each day they enter the classroom.

Here in Texas, we understand that promoting a safe and non-violent community begins at home, where life's first and most important lessons are learned. The logic that dictates that gun violence is driven by the mere existence of guns is inherently flawed. The dramatic increase in school violence during the last decade, without any correlating increase in gun purchases, is a testament to this.

Rather, there must be a community effort to ensure the safety of our schools and its students. The community of Brownsville understands this and teaches responsible gun use, while also promoting tolerance and understanding of others. With support from religious and civic organizations, Brownsville offers young people positive role models so today's students can become tomorrow's leaders.

Recognizing that it is our individual communities that set the example everyday for our young people, we should teach responsibility, emphasize faith, and offer age-appropriate entertainment and examples of proper behavior to our children. It is our duty to lead our children to the right path; then it is their duty to follow that path.

With this in mind, Brownsville is working to reduce school violence by planning "Violence Prevention Week," sponsored by the Brownsville Independent School District, the local law enforcement agencies, the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce, area civic organizations, and the local church community.

Events for the week include: a student essay contest about the challenge of school violence, the "Violence Prevention Fair" at a local mall, and assembly programs and speakers for middle and high school students about the issues facing young people today.

Our honored guest for this special event will be Dave Roeber, a Vietnam veteran who has an intimate understanding of the daily challenges faced by young people of the 21st Century.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the community of Brownsville, Texas, for their efforts to work together to reduce gun violence and build a stronger and safer community.

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5005) to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the United States House of Representatives representing New York City, I am deeply aware of the profound responsibility that was thrust upon this government last September 11th. It is our responsibility, our most important responsibility, to keep the American people safe from terrorism and violence. We were not prepared last fall. We should never be caught unprepared again.

Addressing this, on June 6, 2002, President Bush called for the creation of a permanent, cabinet-level department of homeland security. Even before the President's announcement, we as a nation have been struggling to figure out new ways to improve the nation's safety.

Throughout the debate about the creation of this new department, I have been skeptical that this may just be an exercise in moving boxes around on an organization chart. After examining the bill and listening to my colleagues both on the floor today and during the Government Reform Committee hearings and

markup, I believe that H.R. 5005 should be passed by the House.

As you know, H.R. 5005, the Homeland Security Act of 2002, establishes a Department of Homeland Security as an executive department of the United States headed by a Secretary of Homeland Security who shall be appointed by the President, with the consent of the Senate. The legislation consolidated 22 federal agencies into one new Department responsible for intelligence analysis and dissemination, science and technology, border and transportation security, and emergency preparedness and response. The new department will also have an office of civil rights and liberties, critical to ensuring that the government does not overstep its boundaries. I am hopeful that this legislation will provide the framework for law enforcement, intelligence, health, and other first-line agencies to work together to defend our great nation.

I am disappointed that H.R. 5005 does not include an amendment that I crafted that passed unanimously in the Government Reform Committee. Learned from past lessons, the amendment fixed current problems in our response system and would have allowed future sites of attacks to cut through red tape and bureaucracy and receive disaster relief right away.

I am very concerned that the final product includes troubling provisions that weaken civil service protections for the new Department's employees, undermine Freedom of Information Act compliance, and disregard the need for accountability for corporations that contract with the agency. I strongly encourage the Senate to correct these flaws.

During this time in American history, we public servants must accept the responsibility before us. The President of the United States has said a Department of Homeland Security is necessary to improve our nation's security. I agree with him.

We have to do everything we can to prevent a tragedy like 9/11. We have to make sure we can respond as quickly as possible to future attacks. I hope and pray this new department will do this. I hope and pray we can avoid what my great city has had to live through.

Because of these lessons learned, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on final passage.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE PRO-
MOTING TERRORISM IN U.S.,
WORLDWIDE—INFILTRATES OR-
GANIZATIONS, CREATES TER-
RORIST INCIDENTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, a recent intelligence report states that there are 25,000 agents of the Indian government's "Research and Analysis Wing" (RAW) outside India. While there is nothing wrong with legitimate intelligence work, RAW habitually infiltrates organizations of minority groups and creates terrorist incidents in order to discredit these groups.

The Indian government has recently been declared a violator of religious freedom by the United States government. On January 2, columnist Tony Blankley reported in the Wash-

ington Times that India is sponsoring cross-border terrorism in the Pakistani province of Sindh. This comes at a time when President Musharraf of Pakistan is actively helping us in the war against terrorism, at substantial risk to himself personally and politically.

The organizations Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) have been identified by the U.S. government as "terrorist organizations." The ISYF has been banned in Canada. These organizations have been heavily infiltrated by the Indian government, to the point that they are government-controlled organizations. They have spawned other organizations designed to embarrass the Sikhs, especially those in the Khalistan freedom movement, and blame them for terrorism.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is another organization that our government has labelled "terrorist." Yet journalist Tavleen Singh of India Today, India's leading newsmagazine, reported that the Indian government itself created the LTTE and put up its leaders at the most upscale hotel in Delhi. If LTTE is a terrorist organization, then India created its terrorism.

In November 1994, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the governor of Punjab, the late Surendra Nath, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to foment terrorist activity in Punjab, Khalistan, and in neighboring Kashmir. In a country where half the population lives below the international poverty line, the supposedly democratic government could afford to lay out one and a half billion dollars to create state-sponsored terrorism. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I don't understand how that could happen in a democracy.

Also in 1994, our own State Department reported that the Indian government paid out more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. One of them killed a three-year-old boy and received a bounty for that! A report from the Human Rights Wing showed that at least 25,000 Sikhs were arrested, tortured, murdered, and cremated, then their bodies were declared "unidentified" and cremated. Two reports, one from the International Human Rights Organization (IHRO) and the other jointly issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) and the Punjab Human Rights Organization (PHRO), showed that Indian forces carried out the massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura in Kashmir in March 2000.

In the excellent book *Soft Target*, journalists Brian McAndrew of the Toronto Star and Zuhair Kashmeri of the Toronto Globe and Mail prove that the Indian government itself carried out the bombing of an Air India airliner in 1985, killing 329 people, then blamed the Sikhs. There is too much good information in this book to quote here, but I would like to quote one statement from the Canadian State Investigative Service which appears in the book: "If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load everybody up and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved."

Mr. Speaker, this ongoing pattern of terrorism against its neighbors and against the minority peoples living within its borders shows that India's claim to be a secular democracy and an opponent of terrorism is a lie.