

2005. All of the cooperating agencies are working towards developing a comprehensive plan, which would address various concerns noted during the evaluation of the interim project. Upon completion and analysis of the reformulation study, there may be an opportunity to construct initial, or separable increments of the overall project. If the particular concern at that time is construction along the Fire Island barrier island, then we will put our efforts towards achieving that goal.

Thank you for your interest in the Civil Works program. I hope that this letter addresses your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

L. BROWNLEE,
Acting Assistant Secretary
of the Army (Civil Works).

COMMEMORATIVE JOINT MEETING
OF THE CONGRESS OF THE
UNITED STATES IN REMEM-
BRANCE OF THE VICTIMS AND
HEROES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001,
AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE
COURAGE AND SPIRIT OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK, FEDERAL
HALL, NEW YORK, NY, FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2002

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, and my fellow colleagues of the United States Congress, we are here in the City of New York as representatives of a United States that is bound together as never before. It is a tragic bond, as it came at a cost of immeasurable suffering to the people of this great city, and to those who lost their loved ones in the Pentagon or on flight 93 that ended in Shanksville, PA. Today we are gathered in remembrance of the events that pierced our hearts one year ago.

On September 11th, the terrible and violent acts perpetrated against our homeland took the lives of so many innocents. In the days after the attacks, the courage and strength of our rescue workers lifted the spirits of our nation. In the weeks and months following, an outpouring of generosity from every corner of our nation showed that we stand together. Thousands lined up to give blood in a gesture that Americans would share the essence of life with no regard for whom the recipient might be. The continuing work of the young men and women in our armed forces is a declaration that those responsible for such cowardly acts will not escape justice. Today, one year later, we can say that our wound are healing. Our nation has overcome a great deal, and it is unity that has helped us overcome our grief.

We, as public servants, have come together to realize an even greater responsibility to our nation. These memories are a reminder that we must remain vigilant while we rebuild and that we must never allow our greatest treasure, our liberty, to be vulnerable to the will of our enemies.

We will never forget the innocent victims. We will never forget the heroes. It is with their memory in our hearts that we live each day

with a greater sense of purpose and a deeper appreciation for the gifts that we in this nation share.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CON-
GRESS ON THE ANNIVERSARY
OF TERRORIST ATTACKS
LAUNCHED AGAINST THE
UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER
11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, we are commemorating the terrible attack on America on September 11 last year. This was a terrible event in which about 3,000 people lost their lives. A year later, they are in our prayers.

Also in our prayers are the other victims—those who were subjected to violent, unfair attacks in the aftermath of September 11. One of these was Balbir Singh Sodhi, a gasoline station owner from Arizona. He was murdered at his gas station by someone who apparently mistook him for a follower of Osama bin Laden. His brother, Sukhpal Singh Sodhi, a cab driver in the San Francisco Bay area, was recently killed in his taxicab. I am sure that we would all like to extend our sympathies to the Sodhi family.

No one should be killed because of his religion. Even if Mr. Sodhi had been a Muslim and a follower of bin Laden, that would not justify murdering him. But what makes this crime even more disturbing is that this perception was a mistake. Mr. Sodhi was a Sikh, not Muslim.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revealed religion that believes in the equality of all people, including gender equality. It is not part of either Hinduism or Islam, yet because of the turbans they wear, which are required by their religion, Sikhs are sometimes mistaken for Muslim followers of bin Laden.

The violence has mostly ended, but there are still some unrelated violent incidents. Unfortunately, Balbir Singh Sodhi's brother was also killed just a couple of months ago in his taxicab outside San Francisco. I call for an end to all these attacks and for full and prompt prosecution of all the people responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's recent press release on the anniversary of September 11 into the RECORD at this time.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE KILLED IN LAST YEAR'S
ATTACK ON UNITED STATES

SIKHS SUFFERED THE MOST AFTER THE AT-
TACKS; COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CONDEMNS AT-
TACKS, CALLS FOR END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST
MINORITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 11, 2002.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today remembered the attacks on America a year ago that killed almost 3,000 Americans. He also condemned the violence against Sikh Americans and other minorities that broke out in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

“On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, we remember with sadness and outrage the attacks on America a year ago and offer our prayers and sym-

pathies on this sad anniversary to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States and for the loss of life it entails,” Dr. Aulakh said. “We especially pray for the families of those who have departed.”

“America must do what it can to eradicate terrorism from the world,” Dr. Aulakh said. “We support all the efforts to do so and we must do our part as American citizens,” he said. “This sad anniversary reminds us that we stand together as a nation. We must show unity on this occasion.”

“We also condemn the violence against Sikhs and other minorities that took place last year after the September 11 attacks,” Dr. Aulakh said. “Sikhs suffered the most in the post-September 11 violence,” he said. “The very first victim of this violence was Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh gasoline station owner from the Phoenix area,” he noted. “Recently, his brother was killed in his taxicab. All this violence must stop,” Dr. Aulakh said.

“Nobody should be killed for his or her religion, whether Sikh, Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, or whatever religion one may follow,” Dr. Aulakh said. “But it is important to note that Sikhs are not Muslims nor followers of bin Laden. We condemn bin Laden,” he said. “Unfortunately, because of the turbans we are required to wear, many people mistake Sikhs for bin Laden followers,” he said. “The Sikh religion is an independent, monotheistic, sovereign religion that believes in the equality of the whole human race, including gender equality,” he said. “Daily we pray for the well being of the whole human race.”

In the wake of the September 11 attacks, a couple of young Sikhs were attacked in Brooklyn. Sikh businesses have been stoned and cars have been burned. A Sikh boy was even shot in New York. Many Muslims and other minorities were also subjected to violent attacks.

“We hope that there will not be any more of these incidents in connection with the anniversary of the attacks. “Violence against innocent people of any religion or ethnicity is unacceptable,” said Dr. Aulakh. “It must be condemned and the violence must be ended.”

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CON-
GRESS ON THE ANNIVERSARY
OF TERRORIST ATTACKS
LAUNCHED AGAINST THE
UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER
11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I wish to add my voice to the multitude of Members honoring our Nation and its heroes on September 11, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, although I was back in my district taking part in events commemorating the impact September 11th has had on all of us, I would have voted “Yes” on passage of H. Con. Res. 464. Due to a technical mixup, my name was not added as a cosponsor of this worthy bill, and I wish to state my intention here that I fully support this resolution and its sentiments.

As a former law enforcement officer, I know too well the toll such tragedy takes on individuals—their lives, their families, their future,

and I know too well how difficult, yet how necessary it is to ensure like-minded individuals are prevented from carrying out further attacks.

This resolution makes it clear that while the passage of a year has not softened our

memories, it has shown that we will not bow down to terrorism.

We must find those responsible for the deaths of so many—including my constituent Army Major Kip Taylor who perished in the

Pentagon on that day a year ago—and ensure they face the consequences of their actions.

September 11 brought out the worst in our enemies. Yet it also brought out the best in our citizens. That is what we are honoring today.