

of normalcy. Yet, a year later, although life appears the same as always, there is a difference. Certainly, Congress is in the middle of its appropriations debates as it almost always is this time of year and Republicans and Democrats are embroiled in many of the same arguments that typically take place around now. However, there is now an underlying sense of wariness in our nation that didn't exist before—but this is good, as it shows that we have learned from last year's events. It demonstrates that as a nation, we have grown. September 11, 2001, wasn't that long ago, but America has lived a lifetime in the year since that fateful day.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON H.R. 3762, PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 540. Nine months ago, in his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush called on Congress to enact important new safe guards to protect the pensions of millions of American workers. The President called on Congress to move quickly to enact these important reforms so that people who work hard and save for their retirement can have full confidence in our retirement system.

In response to the President's call, the House immediately took action by holding several hearings on the Enron Collapse and its implications for worker retirement security. We heard from hard working Americans who loyally dedicated decades of their lives to Enron only to lose their life savings when the company collapsed due to corporate corruption. These employees were not millionaire corporate big wigs. They were regular blue collar Americans who had diligently saved their hard earned money for their family's future. We also heard from honest employers who voluntarily offer their employees retirement plans.

But the House did more than just hold hearings.

In April, this body took action and passed a comprehensive Pension Security Act, which would give workers unprecedented new retirement security protections and new freedoms to diversify their retirement savings. The Senate has yet to pass a Pension Security Act.

In April, the House took action and passed a Pension Security Act that would have helped protect thousands of Enron and WorldCom employees who lost their savings during the collapses due to corporate corruption. The Senate has yet to pass a Pension Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, more than 160 days ago, the House took action to help hard working Americans protect their retirement savings. The Senate has not yet acted on the Pension Security Act.

The President is waiting for a bill to sign to protect worker retirement savings from corporate meltdowns.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution because I strongly support the Pension Security Act passed by the House several months ago.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL LESLIE GEHRES

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a true American hero, Rear Admiral Leslie Gehres. A native of Newark in Wayne County, NY, Admiral Gehres will be honored by his community on Saturday, September 28, 2002, with the dedication of a monument and memorial exhibit at Newark High School.

Admiral Gehres began his long and illustrious naval career in 1914, when he enlisted in the New York Naval Militia. When his unit was mobilized on April 6, 1917, he was appointed to the rank of Ensign, and transferred to the regular navy, following completion of course work at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

Admiral Gehres became a Naval Aviator in 1927, and in 1929, trained and led "The Nine High Hats," a prestigious nine-plane acrobatic formation. After the outbreak of World War II, Admiral Gehres took command of Patrol Wing 4, and took part in the Aleutians campaigns. He was responsible for driving the Japanese out of the Aleutian Islands, and for his services, earned the Army's Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, and Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit. He was also promoted to the rank of Commodore for his leadership in that campaign, a rank that had not been given to any naval officer since Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry in the War of 1812.

Following his detachment from Fleet Wing 4, Admiral Gehres assumed command of the USS *Franklin* in the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Gehres courageously and successfully returned that carrier to the Naval Yard in New York, after being heavily damaged by Japanese forces. "For extraordinary heroism as Commanding Officer of the USS *Franklin*," read his Navy citation, Admiral Gehres was awarded the Navy Cross.

Mr. Speaker, Rear Admiral Leslie Edward Gehres passed away in 1975, but he will now be forever remembered for his heroism and selfless service to his nation, and I ask that this Congress join me in saluting his proud career, and in thanking the community of Newark, NY, for honoring his leadership and valor.

"LESS WE FORGET" THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

HON. BRIAN D. KERNS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. KERNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention an event which took place in my district over the weekend.

This past Saturday in Crawfordsville, Indiana, I had the honor of participating in a special ceremony to unveil the monument of the Ten Commandments. This monument was dedicated with over 100 of my fellow Hoosiers present. The monument depicts two tablets containing the Ten Commandments with the words "Less We Forget" inscribed between them.

La'Shar Sharp, who is only 15 years old is one of the key persons who made this memorial possible. Ms. Sharp had the vision of creating the Ten Commandments monument to be dedicated on the September 11 one year anniversary. The Hoosiers in my district took this young girl's vision and helped make it a reality. The Church of Pentecostals of Crawfordsville donated the land and the Allen Monument Company built the memorial. A number of other individuals, businesses and organizations contributed to the dedication ceremony, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars whose members raised the flag and served as the ceremonial color guard.

There is no better symbol for this memorial than the Ten Commandments. As you may know Mr. Speaker, the Crawfordsville Courthouse was forced to take down its depiction of the Ten Commandments. For this reason, I introduced legislation (H. Con. Res. 315), which would prominently display the Ten Commandments in both the House and Senate Chambers. It is important in these times of uncertainty that we be steadfast in our beliefs and mindful of our roots.

I would like to leave you with the words of Crawfordsville's Mayor Steve Gentry, who at the dedication said "The stone may, in time, grow old and become hard to read, but the words and their meaning will carry on for future generations. May God bless the effort that gave us this ceremony, and may God bless the United States of America."

FIRE PLAN ON FEDERAL LANDS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Colorado General Assembly concerning implementation of the National Fire Plan on Federal Lands. Joint Resolution 02S-1007, passed by Colorado's General Assembly, endorses H.R. 3948, introduced in the 107th U.S. Congress to improve the implementation of the National Fire Plan by reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface. I commend the work of the Colorado General Assembly for its strong efforts toward the betterment of the state and well being of the people of the great state of Colorado.

I hereby submit for the RECORD Colorado House Joint Resolution 02S-1007.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02S-1007

By Representative(s) Hefley, Alexander, Johnson, Madden, Snook, Witwer, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Dean, Fritz, Harvey, Lawrence, Mace, Marshall, Plant, Rhodes, Romanoff, Smith, Spradley, Stafford, Tapia, Velga, Vigil, Williams S., Decker, and Weddig; also Senator(s) Fitz-Gerald, Isgar, Tupa, Hernandez, Phillips, and Windels.

CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FIRE PLAN ON FEDERAL LANDS.

Whereas, The paramount goal of fire policy must be the protection of lives, homes, and communities; and

Whereas, 1.3 million Colorado citizens reside in and adjacent to forested areas with high wildfire risk, and the number living 'in a wildland-urban interface is predicted to increase substantially over the next few decades; and

Whereas, Hundreds of firefighters heroically put their lives at risk to save homes and communities every year; and

Whereas, Intermixed land ownership means that Colorado's federal land managers, state land managers, and private property owners are all responsible for the protection of private property; and

Whereas, USDA Forest Service research has demonstrated that fuel reduction within the immediate vicinity of structures and the use of nonflammable building material are the most important factors determining whether a structure will survive a wildfire; and

Whereas, A primary purpose of the National Fire Plan is to reduce the risk of severe wildfires in the wildland-urban interface where communities adjoin or intermingle with federal public lands, and substantial funds have been appropriated to the federal land management agencies to implement this plan; and

Whereas, At a 1998 Colorado forest conference sponsored by Governor Romer and the USDA Forest Service, consensus developed between the environmental community, the timber industry, and the USDA wildland-urban interface red zone; and

Whereas, In January 2002, the General Accounting Office concluded that USDA Forest Service accounting and tracking is so poor that there is no way to determine whether the USDA Forest Service had appropriately spent over \$750 million allocated to thinning and prescribed fire in the wildland-urban interface red zone; and

Whereas, The USDA Forest Service has aggressively fought efforts to require 60% of the National Fire Plan funds to be spent on fuel reduction projects that will provide the greatest protection to the at-risk communities; and

Whereas, The federal land managers in Colorado are using National Fire Plan moneys in some instances to assist in the completion of projects that do little to reduce fuels in the wildland-urban interface; and

Whereas, Colorado Congressmen Joel Hefley and Mark Udall have recognized this problem and introduced a bipartisan resolution, H.R. 3948, to improve implementation of the National Fire Plan by reducing the build-up of fuels in the wildland-urban interface by establishing an interagency council to coordinate implementation of the National Fire Plan, directing the council to define consent criteria to identify the communities within the wildland-urban interface that are most at risk from severe wildfires, requiring that fuel reduction be accomplished in at-risk communities before other fuel reduction efforts are undertaken in the state, and directing the council to determine the most effective and appropriate methods to utilize fuel removed pursuant to the National Fire Plan; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That the General Assembly endorses H.R. 3948 to improve the implementation of the National Fire Plan by reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface, and urges the Colorado Congressional Delegation to support and cosponsor this resolution.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and each member of the Colorado Congressional Delegation.

DOUG DEAN,
Speaker of the House.
ED PERLMUTTER,
President Pro Tem of the Senate.
JUDITH RODRIGUE,
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

KAREN GOLDMAN,
Secretary of the Senate.

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it was a historic experience to join with my colleagues in the Special Joint Meeting of Congress held in New York City. I have visited New York many times since the terrorist attacks on September 11 2001. It is a city that has recovered from, but not forgotten, the events of that tragic day.

The families and friends of those who perished have endured a year of unbearable loss. They have my deepest sympathy. Rarely have we felt vile acts of terrorism perpetrated on our shores, and never on the scale of September 11th, 2001. Our response has shown the strength of character of the American people. The sadness that we all felt that day, and in the days since, has hardened into a resolve to honor the memories of those who perished, to heal our wounds so that our nation is even stronger than before, and to bring righteous justice to those who perpetrated the attacks.

The Congressional Session in New York was a fitting salute to that great metropolis, and a dramatic affirmation that all Americans stand united with the people of New York as we move forward to root out terrorism and build a free and secure world community.

TRAINING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS IN ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, protecting the people of the United States is Congress' number one responsibility. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, we have passed laws in the House to improve our readiness at home, and our agencies are meeting with state and local governments to share information and formulate emergency plans with our first responders.

I wanted to let you know about a private initiative that took place this summer in the district I represent that will improve local readiness and help protect the people in northern Illinois.

On July 20, 2002, Marathon Ashland Petroleum invited members of the Winnebago, Rockford, Blackhawk, Win-Bur-Sew, West Suburban, Byron and North West fire departments, along with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and Bomb Disposal Team to a full-scale bomb drill at its Rockford terminal. The drill was designed to not only familiarize local, area and regional responders with the terminal's facilities and equipment, but to also train and prepare our first responders for a credible threat against the terminal. The drill was the first of its kind in the petroleum industry following the Sept. 11 attacks on our nation.

The all-day event began with tours of the facility and opportunities for police and fire responders to familiarize themselves with the equipment and set-up at the terminal, which can store up to 20 million gallons of fuel, including gasoline and diesel. The Winnebago County Bomb Squad then participated in a simulation where area Emergency Medical Technicians were able to familiarize themselves with the special suits that bomb squad members must wear.

The bomb squad commander, Chris Cowan, then briefed drill participants on likely tactics and targets within the terminal that terrorists might consider. A safety discussion and tips for locating a device followed.

The day was capped off with a detonation of a small explosive device designed to show the impact that even a small device can make.

Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of leadership from our local governments and our business community that we need to win the war on terrorism and protect our homeland. We in Congress have passed legislation to tighten security in America and provide funding to help our nation prepare. But our first responders in our communities are the ones who will make homeland security work.

The people at Marathon Ashland Petroleum and the brave police officers, firefighters, and EMTs from northern Illinois are leading the charge to protect our people. And I commend them for that.

COMMEMORATING ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the one year anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Last September, the lives of all Americans were forever changed. Loved ones have been lost, and the grief we feel is as sharp now as it was one year ago. There is an emptiness in families, in offices, in communities, where sons and daughters, husbands and wives, parents, siblings and friends once were.

Our country has changed. We have focused intently on the task of ensuring our homeland security—a term seldom heard before this past year. We have invested billions of dollars in securing our ports and borders, water and food, and airways. We have enhanced the strength of our military and intelligence capacities, undertaking an unprecedented campaign to end the threat of international terrorism. We have a new appreciation for the hard work of our men and women in uniform—whether they are soldiers, police officers, emergency medical technicians, or firefighters.

We joined together with the President, the Governor, and former Mayor Giuliani in passing an emergency spending bill which provided \$21 billion to fund the rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center site and cleanup in lower Manhattan. This funding has also helped alleviate some of the economic ramifications of the terrorist attacks, provide counseling to New York schoolchildren affected by 9/11, and it is now being used to modernize the transportation systems that were devastated by the towers' collapse. The