

# CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS FOR CREW AND PASSENGERS OF FLIGHT 93

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to proceed as if in morning business to discuss legislation I have pending, S. 1434, a bill which has 69 cosponsors, which would give the Congressional Medal to all of the crew and passengers on flight 93 which crashed in Shanksville, PA, on September 11, 2001.

As we know from cellphone conversations from passengers on that plane, the passengers took over the plane from the terrorists, at least to the extent of depriving the terrorists control where the terrorists, as was widely suspected, were headed for the Capitol of the United States. And the plane crashed in Shanksville, PA, killing all of those on board.

It seems to me this is a unique place for the Congressional Gold Medal, because those passengers saved the Congress. Had that plane reached the Capitol, this Chamber would not now be in existence, nor the Rotunda, nor the House of Representatives. It is hard to say in the morning, perhaps mid-morning, how many Members of the Congress of the United States and staff would not be here today. In seeking this recognition, it is a very unique opportunity to acknowledge those passengers.

This bill has languished because it has gotten tied up, as it is not uncommon for legislation to be tied up for a variety of other reasons. There are some who want to give medals to everyone who died on September 11, which I think is a fine idea. There are some who want to give medals to all of those who were in the rescue squads from the police precincts or fire stations or the Port Authority. And there, again, I think that is a commendable idea. And all the ideas to recognize other people may be fine, but they can take their turn on legislation.

But this legislation ought to be enacted before sunset tomorrow, before September 11, 2002, expires. I am now working with some of my colleagues in the Senate to accomplish that. If we cannot accomplish that, then I am going to ask unanimous consent to call up S. 1434, which has 69 cosponsors. It should have been discharged from committee a long time ago. With 69 cosponsors, that is 18 more votes than necessary to pass legislation in the Senate.

There is a bill in the House of Representatives which approaches the issue slightly differently. The proposal in the House is to leave the decision up to the Attorney General of the United States. Well, that might be a good idea if there was something for the Attorney General to determine that we do not now know. But all of the knowable facts as to what happened on flight 93 are now known.

The Attorney General cannot conduct an investigation and pinpoint any specific individuals. And it is doubtless

true that some individuals were more responsible for taking control of the plane away from the terrorists than others. But all were present. And all of those who were present were accessories to heroism. They lent their support by their presence. Of course, they could not go anywhere else, but the passengers brought down the plane. And the passengers saved the Capitol of the United States.

Interestingly, just yesterday, The New York Times published a release which contains confirmation from key al-Qaida operatives that flight 93 was, in fact, headed for the Capitol. That has been a fairly accepted conclusion, but this is what the New York Times story of yesterday, September 9, says:

Yosri Fouda, correspondent for the satellite station Al-Jazeera, told The Associated Press that he was taken, blindfolded, to a secret location in Pakistan to meet Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Ramzi Binalshibh in a June interview arranged by al-Qaida operatives.

The thrust of the story is that the al-Qaida operatives said that flight 93 was headed for the Capitol. So, in essence, I think we have waited long enough. I think this action ought to be completed before sunset on September 11, 2002. And I hope we can work out an accommodation from the Members who are now with varying points of view. But, as I say, I will ask unanimous consent that the bill be acted upon before sunset tomorrow.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full text of this New York Times report identifying from al-Qaida operatives the fact that this plane, flight 93, was headed for the Capitol, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Sept. 9, 2002]

REPORT: CONGRESS WAS ON 9/11 LIST

(By the Associated Press)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—The U.S. Congress was the fourth American landmark on al-Qaida's Sept. 11 hit list and the terror group also considered striking U.S. nuclear facilities, according to a purported interview with two al-Qaida fugitives wanted in the terrorist attack.

Yosri Fouda, correspondent for the satellite station Al-Jazeera, told The Associated Press that he was taken, blindfolded, to a secret location in Pakistan to meet Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Ramzi Binalshibh in a June interview arranged by al-Qaida operatives.

Fouda said he has waited until now to air the audiotaped interview—it is scheduled to be broadcast Thursday on the pan-Arab satellite station—because he wanted to include it in a documentary marking the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

In an article in London's Sunday Times, Fouda wrote that he learned during the interviews that the U.S. Congress had been al-Qaida's fourth Sept. 11 target. Two hijacked planes slammed into the World Trade Center, another into the Pentagon, and a fourth went down in a Pennsylvania field.

U.S. counterterrorism officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said many of Mohammed's statements about the origins of

the Sept. 11 plot are plausible, but they have no information that would verify those claims.

The officials could not corroborate Mohammed's statements that the U.S. Capitol was the intended target of the fourth plane or that nuclear power plants had also been considered as potential targets for the Sept. 11 attacks.

Abu Zubaydah, a top al-Qaida leader in U.S. custody since March, told interrogators that the White House was the fourth plane's target, U.S. officials have said.

U.S. officials regard Mohammed as one of the highest-ranking al-Qaida leaders still at large and believe he is still planning attacks against U.S. interests. U.S. officials say Binalshibh belonged to a Hamburg-based cell led by Mohammed Atta, an Egyptian suspected of leading the Sept. 11 hijackers.

"I am the head of the al-Qaida military committee and Ramzi (Binalshibh) is the coordinator of the 'Holy Tuesday' operation," Fouda quoted Mohammed as saying. Sept. 11, 2001 fell on a Tuesday.

Mohammed said planning for the attacks began 2½ years before Sept. 11 and that the first targets considered were nuclear facilities.

We "decided against it for fear it would go out of control," Fouda quoted Mohammed as saying. "You do not need to know more than that at this stage, and anyway it was eventually decided to leave out nuclear targets—for now."

Fouda, an Egyptian reporter and host of al-Jazeera's investigative program "Top Secret," said he flew to Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, and from there to Karachi on al-Qaida instructions. In Karachi, he was taken blindfolded and via a complicated route to an apartment where he met the two men.

Fouda, speaking by telephone from London, said al-Qaida operatives told him not to bring any electronic equipment—including a camera or recorder—to the interview. The al-Qaida members videotaped the interview but instead of sending a copy of the video as promised, sent him only the audiotape, he said.

At one point while being led to the meeting, Fouda said he thought he was going to meet bin Laden. Speculation has been rife that the al-Qaida leader may be in Pakistan after fleeing U.S. attempts to kill or catch him in neighboring Afghanistan.

Fouda said during the two days he spent talking to the two, Mohammed once referred to bin Laden in the past tense, leading him to believe bin Laden could be dead.

The U.S. officials said they do not consider Mohammed's use of the past tense to refer to bin Laden as any sort of definitive evidence that he is dead.

Fouda said he also learned that Atta, the chief hijacker, had been a sleeper operative in Germany since 1992 and started detailed planning with a 1999 meeting in Afghanistan with other sleepers.

Once in America, Atta communicated with higher ranking al-Qaida officials via e-mail, Fouda wrote. But when he had determined everything was ready, he telephoned Binalshibh in Germany to tell him the date, using a riddle that referred to the shapes of the numbers 9 and 11.

Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based satellite broadcaster, has drawn world attention with its broadcast of interviews with and statements by bin Laden and his top lieutenants.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this has been an unusual day. Earlier today, the majority wanted to vote on the Thompson amendment. We were led to believe, not wrongly, that the minority did not want a vote on that today. So we decided we would not vote on that today. We learned, later in the day, that Senator THOMPSON wanted a vote on his amendment today. By then, people had gone home for September 11 occurrences.

So now we are in a position where Senator THOMPSON thought there would be nothing happening on his bill today, and he left to do other things.

We have learned that the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, Mr. HOLLINGS, now wishes to offer a second-degree amendment to the Thompson amendment. I have not been able to speak to Senator THOMPSON. I have spoken, on a couple of occasions, to the Senator from South Carolina.

It would be my suggestion, therefore, that the Senator from South Carolina speak on his amendment, and that on Thursday, when we come back on this homeland security bill again, the Senator from South Carolina be recognized to offer his amendment.

We would be taking no advantage of the minority because, as everyone knows, the majority leader has the right of first recognition. And we have indicated to the Senator from South Carolina that he would be in order to offer that amendment, unless we can work something out with Senator THOMPSON that it need not be offered.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. So I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that we go to a period of morning business, now, until 6 o'clock today, with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each. I hope that we would have consent that Senator HOLLINGS could offer the amendment; otherwise, we would, of course, have Senator DASCHLE come and offer that on Thursday.

Is the Senator from South Carolina satisfied with that?

Mr. HOLLINGS. That I be allowed to offer it at what time on Thursday?

Mr. REID. We have not decided what time Thursday, but we do not go to the bill until Thursday afternoon because—

Mr. HOLLINGS. If I could at least get an hour of debate, or whatever it is, on my amendment before we vote on the Thompson amendment.

Mr. REID. Yes. On the Thompson amendment itself, we were planning to do an hour and a half to 2 hours of debate prior to voting on it. That was the plan. Now, with you offering this second-degree amendment, I don't know what the pleasure of Senator THOMPSON would be. But we will work on that today, and tomorrow if necessary, with your staff and his.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I thank the distinguished leader. I think he has certainly accommodated the Senator from South Carolina. I definitely understand Senator THOMPSON is not here. I wanted to offer it while he is here so we can talk about it. But we will offer it at that particular time on Thursday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Nevada?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.  
ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to share a few thoughts on the eve of tomorrow's anniversary of the terrorist attack, September 11, 2001. Tomorrow, a lot of our colleagues, both in this Chamber and the other body, will be expressing themselves, with many Members attending memorial services at the Pentagon. The Senate, as a body, plans to come together late tomorrow morning to meet as a body and to share our thoughts with the country about the events of a year ago. I take this opportunity to remember and to honor the nearly 3,000 of our fellow citizens and others who had come to this country to work—not all were Americans; the majority were—but lost their lives 1 year ago tomorrow in one of America's darkest of days.

I also join all of America in paying tribute once again to the countless men and women whose acts of bravery and heroism so inspired us on that day and the days that followed the tragedy of September 11, and continue to serve as a solemn reminder that the American spirit shines as bright as ever despite the events of that day, that horrible day a year ago.

Thousands of families across this great country of ours, including families in my home State of Connecticut—families in my State lost some 149 people, most of whom lost their lives in the World Trade Center—these families and their loved ones have endured a year of unimaginable grief and unimaginable bravery. Every American grieves with them as many of our fellow citizens the world over from around the globe have shared with us the sense of grief and horror of a year ago and have continued to relate to us and to share their thoughts and prayers with all Americans as a result of our commemoration of the events of 12 months ago.

Over the past 12 months, I have heard countless stories, tragedies that were once unthinkable. In Connecticut, I know of a man who lost both his wife and his only child on that day a year ago; of parents who lost their young children in their twenties, just beginning their lives as young adults, with professional careers; of wives who had received the last phone calls from their husbands before the Twin Towers fell.

Every American will always remember where they were when the Twin

Towers were attacked and collapsed. Every American will always remember where they were when they heard a hijacked plane had crashed into the Pentagon, only a few blocks from where I am sharing these thoughts this afternoon. Every American will always remember how they felt upon learning that a group of passengers fought back against the terrorists who hijacked their plane before it crashed in the field of Pennsylvania. September 11, 2001, is a day that will be etched in all of our memories for the rest of our lives and etched in history forever.

Although all Americans went through that day together, we will always share its memory. Last September 11 was also a deeply personal day for each and every one of us. We each had our own highly personal experiences during those horrid hours that began in the early morning—that wonderful clear, bright, cloudless sky over the eastern part of our country.

For me, the hours and days and weeks following the terrorist attacks were filled with immensely mixed emotions, as most of my colleagues know. I see my friend and colleague from Texas on the floor. We shared the great joy last year of having children come into our lives. My first child, my daughter Grace, was born just 48 hours after the attacks, born on September 13, at a hospital right across the river in Virginia. From the window of the maternity ward, my wife Jackie and I watched the smoke rising from the still-burning Pentagon as we held our newborn child in our hands.

I can still vividly recall trying to balance my feelings of incredible, intense joy with this new beautiful life, mixed with the powerful feelings of horror and trepidation over what kind of a world my daughter Grace would grow up in, in the 21st century.

Something heartened me that day. I have told this story on numerous occasions. In the hospital as my wife held our newborn daughter, many of the doctors and nurses, several of them who held her shortly after she was born, came from places outside of America to become citizens. Three of them came from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Lebanon. Here we are, 48 hours after the events, those countries had been the places of refuge for those engaged in the attacks on our country, and here were people from that very part of the world, United States citizens today, nurturing and caring for my newborn daughter.

That was all the evidence I needed at that particular moment that America was attacked not for who we are, but for what we stand for: Freedom, liberty, and community. And we shared something very powerful in common: We were devastated over the attacks, and we were never prouder to be Americans, almost simultaneously.

Word was already out that the terrorist attacks were the work of al-Qaeda, a fanatical group which hijacked planes, but also an otherwise