

A TRIBUTE TO THE SEPTEMBER 11
FAMILIES OF THE 5TH DISTRICT
OF MASSACHUSETTS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 31 people from my district who died in the September 11 attacks. Captain John Ogonowski was the pilot of American Flight 11. John was a Vietnam veteran and a member of the American Legion and the Dracut Grange. He was a pilot, and he also was a fourth-generation farmer. I'd like to express my appreciation that the 2002 Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report was renamed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farmer-to-Farmer Program after Captain John Ogonowski. John left a wife, Peggy, and three daughters, whom I have come to know and admire over the last two years for their courage and determination in the face of devastating loss. Their strength and commitment to John's legacy will ensure that his memory never dies.

As Captain Ogonowski was one of the first victims, David Bernard of Chelmsford was the last. Dave was struck with falling debris as he walked into the World Trade Center. He was one of the first people rushed to New York hospitals and fought for his life for over 3 months, until December of 2001. He is survived by his wife Nancy; his sons, David and Mark; and his daughter, Jill. If you have a chance to see it, the IRS—where David worked—has a beautiful stone memorial on Constitution Avenue, just a few blocks from here.

Patrick Quigley often took American Flight 11 to California. Concerned once the news that American Flight 11 had hit the World Trade Center, his wife Patti, called his office. She was relieved when they said they were sure he was fine, that he had decided to take United Flight 175 instead. Patrick was on United Flight 175, and at the time, Patti Quigley was seven months pregnant. His daughter Leah will celebrate her 2nd birthday in a few months. Patti, who is a tremendous source of strength for her friends and family, has joined with other widows from September 11th to start a non-profit agency called Beyond the 11th. Next year, we will all know much more about her work, as she begins to work with victims of terrorism and the war in Afghanistan.

I want to tell you all about Larissa Gay, a young woman from Tewksbury, who lost her dad, Peter, a senior trouble shooter for Raytheon. Larissa maintains an A+ average at the Sacred Heart School in Lowell. Larissa ran the 7 mile Falmouth Road Race in honor of her father. What an incredible way to show strength and tackle adversity.

There's a story behind every victim of the September 11 attacks. In the last 2 years, I have had the privilege to get to know many of the families left behind. I'd like to now pay tribute and honor all of them, with a reading of each of their names.

Trudi Alagero, an Andover native; David Bernard of Chelmsford; Geoffrey Cloud of Sudbury; Andrew Curry Green of Chelmsford; Alexander Filipov of Concord; Peter Gay of Tewksbury; Peter Goodrich of Sudbury; Doug-

las Gowell of Methuen; The Hanson Family—Peter, Susan & Christine Hanson, age 3, of Groton; Peter Hashem of Tewksbury; James Hayden of Westford; Cora Holland of Sudbury; Brian Kinney of Lowell; Susan MacKay of Westford; Louis Mariani, formerly of Dracut; Christopher Morrison of Andover; Mildred "Milly" Naiman of Andover; Captain John Ogonowski of Dracut, Pilot of American Flight 11; Betty Ong of Andover, Flight Attendant of American Airlines Flight 11; Jane Orth of Haverhill; Abner Morales Pabon of Lawrence; Marie Pappalardo of Methuen; Patrick Quigley of Wellesley, a Methuen native; Philip Rosenzweig of Acton; Jessica Sachs of Billerica; Jane Simpkin of Wayland; Madeline "Amy" Sweeney of Acton, Flight Attendant of American Airlines Flight 11; Leonard Taylor, an Andover native; Kenneth Waldie of Methuen.

As Americans we can't help but remember. But unlike the families who have experienced this loss first hand, we grieve for a moment, not for a lifetime. These families have suffered the ultimate loss, and we owe them our most heartfelt sympathies and support.

9/11 ANNIVERSARY

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we come together to reflect on the anniversary of September 11, 2001, a day like none other in our history.

Leading up to this anniversary, I have been thinking much about the tragic events of that day and their significance. At first, I felt I had a grasp on what happened two years ago, but now after going to memorials, visiting the sites, and watching the footage, I am not sure if any of us have fully absorbed the events of that terrible day and realize how they have changed our nation and our lives.

This anniversary is important because it gives us an opportunity to consider the lasting impact of the events that altered the course of our nation.

The shock of September 11 for those who witnessed the horrible events firsthand or lost a loved one remains incomprehensible.

For me, the events of that day were extremely powerful at a personal level because my son, my daughter-in-law, and my grandson live in New York City. All I could do was hope and pray my family was safe. As a mother and a grandmother, there is no feeling worse than such uncertainty.

To all of us, the threat of terrorism is still very real despite the relative normality of our lives.

On this occasion, we should take a moment to ask the questions that still need to be answered.

I ask today, Mr. Speaker: Have we properly prepared if another attack takes place? Have we harnessed the amazing energy and the great spirit that saw us through the days and weeks following that day? Have we mobilized our citizens to take on the other problems we as a nation are facing?

I truly believe, as we look back and remember those who tragically lost their lives two years ago, that we take the time to really think about what those events mean to us.

We also need to consider what the legacy of September 11, 2001 will be 10 years from now and even 100 years from now.

Though it has been two years, I am still amazed at how our nation came together to cope with the crisis and to comfort those who suffered unimaginable losses.

I think about the epic effort of the steelworkers and engineers working around the clock to clear rubble from the World Trade Center, and our brave service members who went to Afghanistan to hold accountable those who planned the attack.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, though the Pentagon has been rebuilt and the steel beams and concrete cleared from the World Trade Center, the unspeakable acts of September 11 continue to impact several areas of our lives.

Though we have made progress over the last two years, I believe we can build upon the energy and spirit we displayed after September 11 to become a stronger and more generous nation than before that day two years ago.

Whether the cause is to create new jobs for Americans, improve education, fight poverty at home and abroad, or increase our understanding of foreign cultures and languages, we have missed some opportunities but it is not too late to build upon our resolve and better ourselves, our families, and our communities.

I would like to conclude today, Mr. Speaker, by remembering those who were tragically killed two years ago. Those who lost their lives were truly the innocent, and because of the cowardly acts of a few, more than 3,000 loved ones were taken from their families. It is crucial that we remember them and continue to offer these brave families our support.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF
STAFF SERGEANT CAMERON
SARNO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Cameron Sarno. Sarno lost his life on Monday, September 1, 2003, while on active duty in Kuwait. Cameron Sarno was serving with the 257th Transportation Company when he was killed while helping transport much needed supplies to US forces in Iraq.

A native of Hawaii, Staff Sergeant Sarno moved to the Las Vegas Valley five years ago where he continued his more than nineteen years of service with the Army and the Army Reserve in the 257th, based at the Nellis Air Force Base Reserve Center. Sarno had been deployed in Kuwait since February of this year, where he operated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A man whose loyalty to family, friends, and comrades was a byword of both his personal and military lives, Cameron Sarno gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the values and ideals that he wished for us all. Staff Sergeant Sarno was a patriot and a hero; his dedication to our country will remain a reminder of the struggles that we face in the name of freedom. I urge all Members of this House to join me in honoring his sacrifice and in sending our condolences to his family and friends.