

stand for what is being done to them. The need for added medical care is at its highest for our remaining World War II veterans. As each day passes, there are fewer and fewer who are still able to tell their heroic stories of sacrifice, duty, and honor. This also applies to those who fought in the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and other wars since. If this injustice is not addressed and rectified soon, the same outcome will one day apply to those who have so bravely fought, and are currently fighting terrorism in the Middle East.

We must rethink and correct the cuts that have recently been made and which are extremely harmful to the well being of those who have made it possible for us to enjoy the very freedom we experience today. Congressional inaction could result in American veterans—some in their 80s—marching on Washington, as World War I veterans did in the late 1920s. Thomas Jefferson said, "Eternal vigilance is the price we pay for FREEDOM." The vigilance he spoke of was vigilance against the British, the Indians, and the vicissitudes of nature such as drought, floods, hurricanes, and disease. Our vigilance today must be to demand that the House and Senate conference committee provide adequate funding for those who kept the fires of freedom burning brightly and deliver a veterans appropriation that will maintain the healthcare and the dignity that the greatest generation spawned long ago.

COMMENDING THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEBRIS COLLECTION EFFORT FOLLOWING THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA" ACCIDENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 222. This resolution commends those individuals who contributed to the debris collection efforts following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident.

On the early morning of Saturday, February 1, 2003, just after 9:00 a.m. a tragedy struck our nation. For the second time in 17 years we lost the crew of a space shuttle. This time it was the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, the oldest of America's four space planes.

On board was a crew of seven courageous astronauts—six Americans: Colonel Douglas Husband, Commander William C. McCool, Astronaut Kaplana Chawla, Captain David M. Brown, Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, Captain Laurel Blair Salton Clark, MD, and one Israeli: Colonel Ilan Ramon.

The seven astronauts accepted this mission knowing the potential danger they faced. Despite the danger, they risked their lives and made the ultimate sacrifice in their dedicated efforts to advance our nation's space program. Each of these astronauts will be remembered as a pioneer and a hero.

More heroes emerged in the days and weeks following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident. These heroes collected the debris and wreckage from the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. Among the debris collectors were National Guard Civil Support Teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, trained to handle the aftermath of terrorist attacks. Their training

made them ideal experts for protecting the public from the toxic shuttle fuels. Also helping with the collection were Department of Public safety troopers, the National Forest Service, forest fire crews, and other law enforcement agency personnel.

As impressive as the efforts of public agents was the self-sacrifice of the over 1,500 volunteers who helped with the search for debris. The volunteers are residents of Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas. They hiked over and through thickets, briars, forests, marshes, muddy hillsides, creeks, and barbed-wire fences for over a week looking for debris. The volunteers braved near-freezing temperatures, gusting winds, sleet, and rain. They included teachers, NASA engineers, store-owners, and housewives.

Brian Carpenter, a volunteer from Warren, Texas described his experience, and why he joined the search efforts. "It's cold out here," he said, "but knowing that the day will come when the astronaut's families will be able to smile and think about their loved ones with pride and without grieving, there's warmth in that."

Tracy Jones of Orange, Texas said, "We want to give the families peace of mind. That's the only reason we're out here."

Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 222 to commend Brian Carpenter, Tracy Jones and all of the generous volunteers who helped to collect the Space Shuttle *Columbia* debris. I also support H. Res. 222 to commend the members of the National Guard Civil Support Teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, the Department of Public safety troopers, the National Forest Service, forest fire crews, and the other law enforcement agency personnel who sacrificed their time to collect the debris and bring a sense of needed closure to the grieving families of the astronauts. I commend everyone who helped with the debris collection efforts. They too are heroes.

HONORING LEMOORE NAVAL AIR STATION PILOTS

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our local Lemoore Naval Air Station, LNAS, pilots who fought in Iraq. An Appreciation Dinner for our local LNAS pilots has been organized for Saturday, May 17, 2003 by a local radio station serving the entire Central Valley of California.

Saturday's dinner should serve as just one expression of our deepest appreciation for the commitment and resolve shown by the men and women of our Armed Forces. Pilots from the Lemoore Naval Air Station and courageous reservists and enlistees from the Central Valley joined forces with thousands around the world in Iraq. I would like to join with the hundreds of individuals who will attend the dinner to thank those who put their lives on the line for the sake of freedom.

Our local reservists and enlistees sacrificed for the betterment of our nation and the entire world, and it is only fitting that they receive the proper appreciation this weekend. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the pilots from the Lemoore Naval Air

Station for their brave and courageous efforts on behalf of our country.

HONORING THE FAITHFUL SERVICE OF THE REVEREND DR. STEPHEN ROWAN

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Reverend Dr. Stephen Rowan in celebration of his 4-year anniversary as pastor at the Bethany Baptist Church. His dedication to the congregation and to the Greater Cleveland community is outstanding.

Reverend Dr. Stephen Rowan has been a member of Bethany for more than 35 years and has served in the capacity of Sunday School teacher, Trustee, and as Director of the Bethany Male Chorus. His father, the Reverend Dr. Albert T. Rowan, Pastor Emeritus of Bethany Baptist Church, was his confidant, inspiration, and role model.

Reverend Rowan has excelled academically. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Knox College, a Masters in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University, a Masters in Divinity from Trinity Theological Seminary and has recently earned his Doctorate of Ministry at Ashland Theological Seminary.

Reverend Rowan is the current Program Officer for Economic Development with the Cleveland Foundation, the country's oldest and second largest community foundation. He was a former partner with Ulmer & Berne, L.L.P. (1991-96), served as Chief Deputy County Administrator on the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners (1981-90), served as Interim General Counsel for the Cleveland Board of Education and was the former Director of Operations for the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (1975-81).

Reverend Rowan is currently a member of the Cleveland Bar Association, Norman S. Minor Bar Association, United Way Strategic Planning Committee, Advisory Board for the Center for Adolescent Health (CWRU), Quality Committee and Graduate Education Committee of Meridia Health System and the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni Association.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio and the United States Congress, I pay tribute to the leadership, dedication, support, and commitment of Reverend Rowan to the congregants and to the community.

PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING BY TEXAS LEGISLATURE

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, with all of the unresolved fiscal issues on the Texas Legislature's plate, the state's Republican leadership is attempting a brazen and appalling gerrymander of Texas Congressional representation.

Now, two years after the federal court did the Legislature's job of congressional redistricting in Texas in 2001, Congressman TOM DELAY is trying to ramrod State Rep. Joe Crabb's bill to redraw congressional district boundaries to favor Republicans.

Originally baiting the move with a ploy to create a new congressional district that ostensibly favors Hispanics in South Texas is something more than crass. The Legislature had its chance to participate two years ago but opted out—and mid-decade is no time to throw Texas' Congressional delegation into chaos.

The leadership in Austin is to blame for the discord last week that sent the 50 or so Texas House members into Oklahoma exile. Their defection is not just arbitrary quorum-busting but in courageous protest of DELAY'S attempt to hijack the Legislature for his own political ego's sake.

Further, as a former federal law enforcement officer, I am very concerned that federal law enforcement entities were dragged into the State's efforts to retrieve Texas House members from across state lines.

Crabb's bill, which has set off a storm of national coverage, asks for full-blown redistricting that will require new rounds of public hearings across the state. Also, new redistricting would no doubt end up back in court and cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

The guarantee is slim that any new redistricting in the Rio Grande Valley will benefit minorities Statewide since redrawing district boundaries appears to further disenfranchise minorities—even in the huge proposed border district numbered 23, adjacent to my own. Under the plan, five current Democratic districts are also in jeopardy.

The Legislature ducked redistricting in 2001 and now Republicans are poised for an outright power-grab after the court-drawn plan minimally changed the State's 32-district map, returning 17 Democrats to Congress. And, the court's plan received Justice Department approval.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Texas state legislators who stood up to this attempted power-grab and hope that the attention of lawmakers at the State and Federal levels returns to the real issues facing our communities—creating jobs, educating our children and ensuring all have access to health care.

SEPTEMBER 11TH
COMMEMORATIVE COIN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to enter into the RECORD an article that appears in the April 29th issue of the Numismatic News entitled "September 11 deserves commemoration on coin." This article was written by my friend, mayor of my hometown of Fair Lawn, and a Bergen County Freeholder in the State of New Jersey, David Ganz. I commend it to the attention of every Member of Congress.

[From the Numismatic News, Apr. 29, 2003]
SEPT. 11 DESERVES COMMEMORATION ON COIN
(By David L. Ganz)

Liberty, Freedom, Justice, Intellect, Ingenuity, Challenge, Capitalism, Success, Glory, Might, Power, America.

The twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City connoted all of these things—the very reason that the building was a primary target for the extremists and terrorists who murdered thousands of innocents Sept. 11, 2001.

America has avenged the events of that day, when the towers came under attack along with at least two other locations. Without taking anything away from the victims on Flight 93, or those who were at the Pentagon, the aim of Osama Bin Laden and his terrorist crew was the rich symbolism of the World Trade Center—what it stood for.

In any generation, there may be one or two events that are seminal, that define the generation. The bombing of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the Flight 93 attack are defining for the United States, for it marks the end of an age of innocence and, perhaps, of a new era of American military might.

The war that we fought in Iraq, now moving toward a complete cessation of hostilities, is a direct outgrowth of the World Trade Center attack and the subsequent nearly futile search for its progenitor, Osama Bin Laden.

H.R. 298 was introduced by Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., Chair of the House coinage subcommittee, on Jan. 8, "To posthumously award congressional gold medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and perished and to people aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who helped resist the hijackers and caused the plane to crash, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Spirit of America, recognizing the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes." Co-sponsor: Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y.

On Feb. 27 it was referred to King's Unit, the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology. Nothing further has been heard from it.

A little more than a year earlier, Rep. Steve Rothman, D-N.J., introduced H.R. 3980 to authorize commemoration of "Events of cataclysmic proportion, as well as epic struggles, [which] have long been commemorated on the coinage of various countries."

Congress has yet to take action on any measure, but it should. It should be more than a national medal that honors those who perished. It should celebrate the majesty of the buildings where they once stood and of what they stood for: above all, Liberty and Freedom, that which its enemies could never destroy.

There are those who believe—some congressional staff members among them—that the events of Sept. 11 should not be commemorated at all, and that we should forget America's darkest hour. Commemoration, their view is, should be reserved for triumphs, not tragedies.

World history and the practices of other nations offers a different perspective. Canada's tombac nickel, for example, issued in 1943, featured a new reverse from the famous Churchill "V" for victory over the Nazi Axis war machine. It came at a dark moment of the war after battles had been lost and when D-Day was more than a year away.

It's more than me, alone, being a cheerleader. Coinstar, who changed the way people dealt with cashing in coins, did a survey last summer which concluded that "more than half (52 percent) of Americans revealed they would prefer to see scenes of the flag raising by firemen at the World Trade Center/Ground Zero over the U.S. Military at Iwo Jima (37 percent)."

More surprising: with younger Americans (18-34) popularity is even stronger, at 63 per-

cent. However, for Americans age 65 and over prefer the U.S. Military at Iwo Jima (50 percent) over World Trade Center (32 percent). The poll, compiled from telephone research among more than 1,000 randomly selected American adults, was conducted by an independent market research firm. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percent.

Private enterprise has stepped in where the Congress and the Executive Branch fear to tread. Already, there are colorized versions of the World Trade Center being placed on silver Eagles as well as other coins. The U.S. Mint official position: "The United States Mint does not comment on coin-grading issues or on a colorized coin's current or future value as a collectible item. If you like a colorized coin because of the way it looks, then you may want to add it to your collection. However, if you are primarily concerned about the long-term investment value of a colorized coin, you should contact a reputable coin dealer or coin grading service before you purchase the coin."

What is it that is magical about the twin towers World Trade Center, which at 110 stories tall each were an arresting scene of American power and might in the skyscraper silhouette of New York City's downtown?

The World Trade Center had consisted of seven buildings, one of which was briefly the tallest building on the planet (the towers were not exactly the same height). The twin towers were endless subject of New York skyline scenes that appeared in newspapers, on medals and almost on the New York state quarter.

Designed by Minoru Yamasakui and Emery Roth, the twin towers were part of a complex built in lower Manhattan island that actually constituted the world's largest building complex. Two rectangular twin towers were the most prominent part.

Each 110 stories tall (one also contained a television antennae used by major networks, the building known as 1 WTC was home to the elegant "Windows on the World" restaurant and the antennae, while 2 WTC contained an observation deck that offered an unparalleled view from more than a quarter of a mile up in the air.

One tower was 1,362 feet, the other 1,368 feet in height. Both was completed in 1973 at a cost of more than \$750 million and were owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Wrapped in stainless steel bodies lined with tall, narrow windows, the skyscrapers were state-of-the-art buildings. The Vista hotel complex, part of the center, was the host of numerous New York International coin shows.

Built on a 16-acre site, and going seven stories into the ground (or more than 70 feet into Manhattan bedrock), the twin towers dominated the New York skyline for more than 30 years. That 70-foot drilling was surrounded by a giant bathrhub-like structure that kept out the nearby Hudson River.

In June 2002, just about nine months after the horrific events of Sept. 11, I traveled into Manhattan to go to Ground Zero. As mayor of my municipality (Fair Lawn, N.J.), I was able to travel with the head of our Emergency Management Office, Tom Metzler, and the other members of our Borough Council.

The ostensive reason was to see what terrorist damage could occur, how it could be prevented and to help plan the future. The other reason, more personal, was to stand in the pit of Ground Zero, seven or eight stories beneath sea level, and pay tribute to those who died that freedom might live.

The nearest-height building was the Empire State Building with 102 stories, located several times uptown to the north, and then the Chrysler Building, at 67 stories.

One view of the twin towers is depicted on a drawing presented to the Fine Arts Commission as a possible final design choice for