



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2003

No. 125

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Two years have passed, but we have not forgotten. America will never forget the evil attack on September 11, 2001. But let us not be overwhelmed by repeated TV images that bring back paralyzing fear and make us vulnerable once again. Instead, in a moment of silence, let us stand tall and be one with the thousands of faces lost in the dust; let us hold in our minds those who still moan over the hole in their lives.

With pride and purpose let us recall survivors and ordinary heroes and heroines who came to rescue, carry, heal, lift up, tear down, pray confidently, and create anew. With determined faith and heartfelt compassion, let us today be united in silent prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLAKE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, we come here today to remember the tragedy of 2 years ago and remember the changes that it has made in our country.

Two years ago this morning, early in the morning, a beautiful day, much like today, we were at the end of a fairly long period of time in this country when there was a sense that there really was no role that only the Federal Government could perform, that many things that were done could be done at better places. By noon on this day 2 years ago, there was an understanding that there were some jobs that had to be done on behalf of all of us, from those of us who had the responsibility to work here in the Nation's Capitol. America was changed that day.

I am pleased that the Congress has responded in the way it has, to quickly act in the environment that the founders did not intend to be quick, to even on that week 2 years ago respond and still today to have the ongoing concerns of establishing a new department, of facing our enemies in the world, of reaching out and putting our arms around those who suffered the tragedies of September 11.

Certainly, that was a moment that changed America, a moment that changed this Congress, and it was a moment that changed the world. That was a moment that we recognize not just in silence but we recognize today in our activities all over the globe, at home and abroad to ensure that the enemies of freedom never prevail, and those who love freedom always know that they have strong friends in the United States of America and that we intend to be the symbol for freedom and free people everywhere.

REMEMBER THE TRAGEDY OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) is my counterpart in this House. It is his responsibility to organize his party to vote on issues of importance to this country and to express their views. And on my side of the aisle, it is my responsibility to organize my party to express our views. At times, that is extraordinarily contentious and we demonstrate to the American public, and indeed to the world, sometimes deep differences.

But the gentleman from Missouri is my friend, he is my fellow citizen of this greatest of democracies and nations. And on September 11, 2 years ago, he and I and our colleagues were on this hill, and we heard that there was a plane coming towards this city. It was in the context of one plane hitting the north tower and one plain hitting the south tower of the World Trade Center in New York. On that day, there were no Republicans, there were no Democrats, there were no liberals, there were no conservatives. There were Americans. There were representatives of 280 million people elected to serve this great Nation.

Today, we are as one with our President and with our people in remembering, remembering those whom we lost from this Nation, and indeed from nations around the world. We remember the heroism of those brave citizens on that plane over Pennsylvania, determined that the information they had received about terrorists taking down buildings would not be allowed by them to happen as a result of the plane that they were on being crashed into what we ultimately conclude was either this building, the center of democracy, or the White House, the House of the leader of the free world.

And so, Mr. Speaker, as we remember, as we reflect, we renew our resolve that we will confront terrorism; that in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H8199

John Kennedy's words, we will pay any price, bear any burden to defend freedom here and around the world. God blesses America, God blesses America through the resolve and the courage of its people and its commitment to freedom.

REFLECTING ON THE
ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this moment marks the second anniversary of the surprise attacks on America in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. As we reflect on why America was attacked, I believe it is clearer than ever: It is because America is the symbol of liberty and freedom in the world.

Our values of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and the opportunities for women to fully participate in society are cherished. But these values are a challenge to evil people who fear our freedoms as undermining their enslavement of others.

Our resolve to promote democracy is unwavering, and the pledge of President Bush has never been more correct. We will not waiver, we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail. Today, I depart on a delegation to Baghdad to thank our brave Armed Forces, and it has never been more appropriate to declare: God bless our troops and God bless America.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF
SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. McNULTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join with the citizens of the United States of America and the citizens of the free world in remembering the victims of September 11, 2001.

I also remember their families. I think of my friends, John and Judy Reo of New York, who lost their son John Reo, and their son-in-law, John Swain, on that day.

I also remember with deepest gratitude all of the emergency personnel, the police officers, the firefighters, and the others who, when the masses were running away from the tower buildings, ran toward the buildings, into the buildings, up the stairs, many to their deaths. Why did they do that? Because that is their job, and they did it very well on that day. Because the vast majority of the people in those tower buildings below the point of impact of those planes survived, and they survived because of the heroic efforts of those police officers, firefighters, and the others who ran to their aid. So we should remember their contributions

on a daily basis, because they are on guard for us 365 days a year to protect our lives all over this country.

And, finally, I join with all of you, with deepest gratitude, to the leaders of this Nation for bringing us together. And we should remember to remain united as a Nation, because if we remain united as a Nation, the forces of evil shall never prevail.

TRIBUTE TO C.E. "PEP" COONEY
OF ARIZONA

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of C.E. "Pep" Cooney, an Arizona television icon. Pep's career in broadcasting spanned more than 45 years, taking him from advertising to president to general manager at KPNX, where he led that station to its stature as the number one rated television station in the State.

Pep's nightly commentaries, or "Pep talks," made him one of Arizona's most recognizable figures. Pep was also the quintessential community leader. Whether he was lending his talents to the Valley Big Brothers, United Way, Boy Scouts, the Fiesta Bowl, or countless other organizations, Pep was constantly engaged in activities to benefit the Valley and the State of Arizona. When the history of Arizona is written, Pep Cooney and the institutions he help to build and maintain will be a prominent feature.

It is a rare individual who can be successful with his career, while devoting so much time to his community. It is truly an exceptional individual who can succeed in these areas while putting his family first. Pep was admired and respected by his colleagues and community. Most importantly, however, Pep was adored by his family. As a neighbor and friend to some of Pep's children and grandchildren, I have had the good fortune to watch them together. Surely the youngest of Pep's grandchildren knew little of his career success or his standing in the community. They just knew that they were his priority.

That, Mr. Speaker, is Pep Cooney's most enduring legacy. May it be ours as well.

MAKING AMERICANS SAFE

(Mr. DeFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the way Congress and the President could best commemorate the terrorist attack, the tragedy of 9/11, and the loss of thousands of innocent lives would be to ensure that we have done all in our power both here and abroad, that Americans are as safe as possible against another assault.

Unfortunately, as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and a senior member of the Subcommittee on Aviation, I can say with confidence that we have fallen far short of that mark. Significant portions of the Aviation Security Act have not been implemented. Our first responders, those who responded so selflessly on that tragic day, still lack basic resources and help from the Federal Government, even as Congress is considering the President's request for another \$87 billion for Iraq.

On this day, Congress should resolve to remember by redoubling its efforts, avoiding dangerous distractions, and providing all the funds necessary so we can say with confidence, never again.

HONORING THE FALLEN

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard so often this morning, this is a special day, and it is appropriate for us to take the time to honor the fallen and acknowledge our gratitude to our first responders and to our brave men and women who are serving here in this country and half a world away.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also appropriate to take a moment to honor those who were here and served in this House 2 years ago. Mr. Speaker, as you have pointed out, this building, this House, was, in fact, one of the purported targets of the terrorists that morning, terror that was prevented by the actions of passengers high above the Pennsylvania countryside. Like millions of Americans, I began that day narrowly focused on my own personal concerns, and like millions of Americans, I ended that day watching Members of this House singing God bless America on the Capitol steps at sunset.

On that day, I did not know that my path would lead me here. But I remember the peace that was brought to me and my family by the visible cohesiveness of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for that day and I thank you for this day as well.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I, like many of my colleagues here this morning, rise to talk about September 11 and what it means to all of us as Americans, what it means to me as a New Yorker in particular, and the fact that these brave people that lost their lives, more than 3,000 of them, our lives will never again be the same. America lost its innocence that day, and we have been thinking ever since about how we can best respond to ensure that we can