

never again occur, and that these men and women did not die in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, September 10, 2003, the bill is considered read for amendment, and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM ACT

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of September 10, 2003, I call up the bill (H.R. 911) to authorize the establishment of a memorial to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of September 10, 2003, the bill is considered read for amendment.

The text of H.R. 911 is as follows:

H.R. 911

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF MEMORIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board established in section 2(a) is authorized to establish a memorial (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Memorial”) in accordance with this Act on Federal lands administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs (as defined in section 2(e) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1002(e)) to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad, except those individuals identified by the Attorney General of the United States as participating or conspiring in terrorist-related activities.

(b) DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall detail to the Advisory Board such support staff as are necessary to assist the members of the Advisory Board in carrying out its responsibilities.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—The Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) shall apply to the Memorial, with the exception of section 3(c) of that Act which shall not apply to the Memorial.

SEC. 2. ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an advisory board to be known as the “Victims of Terrorism Memorial Advisory Board” (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Advisory Board”).

(b) MEMBERS.—The Advisory Board shall consist of 13 members who shall be appointed, not later than 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, by the President (in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense) from interested persons, including representatives of organizations dedicated to

assisting victims of terrorism and their families.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall be one of its Members elected by a majority of the Members at the first meeting of the Advisory Board.

(d) TERMS; VACANCIES.—Members of the Advisory Board shall serve for the life of the Advisory Board. The President shall make appointments to fill any vacancies that occur.

(e) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall—

(1) raise necessary funds to establish, design, construct, and maintain the Memorial; and

(2) begin consultation under section 7 of the Commemorative Works Act not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) DONATIONS.—The Advisory Board may accept donations on behalf of the United States for the establishment, design, construction, and maintenance of the Memorial.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Board shall terminate not later than 120 days after completion of the Memorial.

(h) FACAS.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Board.

SEC. 3. DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.

If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the Memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount provided for in section 8(b) of the Commemorative Works Act), or upon expiration of the authority for the Memorial under section 10(b) of that Act, there remains a balance in the funds received under section 3(f) for maintenance of the Memorial, the Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall transfer the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the account provided for in section 8(b)(1) of that Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment designated in the previous order of the House is adopted.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF MEMORIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board established in section 2(a) is authorized to establish a memorial (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Memorial”) in accordance with this Act on Federal lands administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs (as defined in section 8902(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code) to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad, except those individuals identified by the Attorney General of the United States as participating or conspiring in terrorist-related activities.

(b) DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall detail to the Advisory Board such support staff as are necessary to assist the members of the Advisory Board in carrying out its responsibilities.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, shall apply to the Memorial, with the exception of section 8903(c) of that title which shall not apply to the Memorial.

SEC. 2. ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an advisory board to be known as the “Victims of Terrorism Memorial Advisory Board” (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Advisory Board”).

(b) MEMBERS.—The Advisory Board shall consist of 13 members who shall be appointed not later than 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act. Nine members shall be appointed by the President (in consulta-

tion with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense), 2 members by the Speaker of the House of Representatives (in consultation with the Minority Leader) and 2 members by the Majority Leader of the Senate (in consultation with the Minority Leader) from interested persons, including representatives of organizations dedicated to assisting victims of terrorism and their families.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall be one of its members elected by a majority of the members at the first meeting of the Advisory Board.

(d) TERMS; VACANCIES.—Members of the Advisory Board shall serve for the life of the Advisory Board. The President shall make appointments to fill any vacancies that occur.

(e) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall—

(1) raise necessary funds to establish, design, construct, and maintain the Memorial; and

(2) begin consultation under section 8907 of title 40, United States Code, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) DONATIONS.—The Advisory Board may accept donations on behalf of the United States for the establishment, design, construction, and maintenance of the Memorial.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Board shall terminate not later than 120 days after completion of the Memorial.

(h) FACAS.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Board.

SEC. 3. DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.

If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the Memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount provided for in section 8906(b) of title 40, United States Code), or upon expiration of the 7-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, there remains a balance in the funds received under section 8903(f) of title 40, United States Code, for maintenance of the Memorial, the Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall transfer the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b) of that title.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO).

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago today, America experienced an unimaginable act of terrorism that resulted in over 3,000 innocent people being taken from their families, including over 300 brave firefighters and 60 police officers from New York City, and over 40 military personnel at the Pentagon. The attacks of 9/11 changed America forever. While it renewed our sense of patriotism, it also challenged Americans to accept new limitations in their lives.

While our Nation has certainly experienced tragedies in the past, the events of 9/11 affected the soul of this Nation and have transformed how millions of Americans live their lives. America has entered a new era following the events of September 11, 2001, an age where peace and personal security at home is no longer taken for granted. Americans, unfortunately, have been victims of terrorism in the past.

These are just a few of a long list of examples:

The assassination of Cleo Noel, U.S. Ambassador to Sudan in 1973; 63 Americans killed at the bombing of U.S. barracks in Lebanon in 1983; an American serviceman killed during the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in Lebanon in 1985; wheelchair-bound Leo Klinghoffer was murdered aboard the *Achille Lauro* in 1985; 259 Americans were killed aboard Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland in 1988; six people killed in the bombing of the World Trade Center garage in 1993; 19 Americans killed in the bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996; 247 people killed in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, and 10 people killed in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania in 1998; 17 sailors killed in the attack on the USS *Cole* in Yemen in October 2000.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 911, the National Memorial to Victims of Terrorism Act, would authorize the creation of a living national memorial in our Nation's Capital to all of the victims, past, present and, unfortunately, future, killed in terrorist attacks against the United States or its people, including those killed in the horrific September 11 attacks.

The bill would authorize the creation of an advisory board whose members would be appointed by the President, the Speaker of the House, and the majority leader. The board would be responsible for raising all necessary funds to design, construct, and maintain the memorial. Today, we have an opportunity to acknowledge the thousands of victims whose lives have been lost through acts of terrorism in our history by establishing this memorial in their honor.

While we cannot completely repair the damage that has been done by terrorists that hate liberty and freedom, we can provide some assurance that their memories will not be lost.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 911, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO) for his outstanding leadership on this very important piece of legislation, H.R. 911, creating a national memorial to the victims of terrorism. I also want to thank the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) for his help and work on this bill, which we have been involved in for the past 2 years. I also want to thank the ranking minority member of the full committee, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for their work.

This bill originated shortly after September 11 of 2001 and, in the past Con-

gress, was cosponsored by the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the then chairman, Jim Hansen, who retired and who worked very hard in putting together the initial version of this bill. So I am very grateful for the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the other Members who have supported this concept and have worked to make this bill one that we believe will be successful, one that will pay tribute and memorialize the victims of terrorism.

We have had over 218 Members of the House join in cosponsoring this bill. The occasion of September 11 always reminds us of the tragic events of 2 years ago. On that day, the attacks took thousands of innocent lives and changed the history of our Nation and of our world. Although it has been 2 years, the terrible images of that day, the pictures of the towers and flames, the horrors of the onlookers in lower Manhattan, the workers who rushed into the Pentagon to help save their colleagues, the determined faces of firefighters at Ground Zero and at the crash site in Pennsylvania all remain vividly in our memories. We can still feel the emotions of that day, our feelings of horror, anger, grief, and, most importantly, our commitment to ensure that this would never, ever happen again.

We know now that September 11 of 2001 was the beginning of what we might call a new world order. No longer would military might alone protect us. We know today that our world has grown smaller, and that our security is threatened not only by nations, but also by a small band of dedicated terrorists who hide in the shadows and who willingly use suicide missions to kill thousands of innocent victims. The savage attacks of September 11 made clear to all that war had been declared against America by a cruel and calculating foe, one that seeks to destroy this Nation, to take away our freedoms and liberties that form the bedrock of our great society.

Never before have so many Americans been killed on our own soil in a single day. The terrorists took the lives of over 3,000, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, citizens of America, and 80 other countries around the world. Since then, Americans have come together as a Nation to remember those who lost their lives and to pledge our unwavering resolve to win the war on terrorism, whatever the cost, and whatever the length of the battle.

As part of our commitment to defeat terrorism in all of its forms and to never forget the precious lives that have been lost throughout these years, this legislation, H.R. 911, would authorize the establishment of a national memorial to all victims of terrorist acts against the United States, including those who lost their lives on that fateful day 2 years ago.

The national memorial created in this bill would not only be dedicated to

the memory of the victims who lost their lives at the hands of terrorists; it would be a living memorial where future generations of young Americans will come to learn about the challenges America faced when confronted by an enemy that knew no national boundaries and that used unconventional methods, including suicide attacks, to spread fear, death, and destruction.

It is my hope that this memorial will chart America's journey in the war against worldwide terrorism and will someday show the world how freedom, liberty, and justice overcame oppression, cowardice, and fanaticism.

This legislation creates a 13-member advisory board appointed by the President, the Speaker of the House, and President pro tempore of the Senate, and includes representatives from organizations dedicated to assisting the victims of terrorism. This advisory board will guide the design, the location, and will provide the leadership in raising the private funds necessary for the establishment and maintenance of the memorial. In accordance with the Commemorative Works Act, the advisory board will consult with the appropriate commissions regarding site selection and design.

When the House Committee on Resources first held a hearing on this bill last year, each of us were deeply moved by the stories of several Americans whose lives were permanently changed on September 11. Among our witnesses were Lisa Beamer, whose husband Todd was among the heroes of Flight 93. Todd was the young American who said, "let's roll." Another of our witnesses was a staff member, a then staff member of the Committee on Resources, Liz Howell, whose husband was killed at the Pentagon. We also heard on that day from Joe Finley, a New York firefighter, who lost many friends in the World Trade Center and who worked in the rescue efforts at Ground Zero. Finally, we heard from Lieutenant Colonel Ted Anderson, who personally pulled victims from the burning Pentagon.

□ 1115

All of these spoke of the need for a national memorial to the victims of terrorism in the District of Columbia. The stories of these individuals remind us of the tragedy, the sacrifice, the heroism that marked that day. Each of them represents the spirit of the bravery and patriotism that arose in America's darkest hour. Each of them expressed in a very personal way the meaning that a national memorial would have to them.

Liz Howell so eloquently stated, "I believe a national monument to terrorism would become a hallowed place for the people of this generation to remember and grieve. Perhaps even more importantly, it would teach future generations about the heroism, sacrifice, and patriotism that surrounded the deaths of people who died simply for being Americans."

Lisa Beamer in her testimony said, "It is my hope and expectation that the Memorial to Victims of Terrorism will motivate current and future generations to always be vigilant in protecting us from evil and always be practicing for great acts of heroism. If these lessons of September 11 are learned and remembered, the deaths of our loved ones will not be in vain."

Lt. Colonel Ted Anderson who rushed into the Pentagon on that fateful day, put it this way, "This is about a memorial to those who have fallen already and it is about a physical symbol of our unified commitment to persevere, prevail, and to preserve the sanctity of our endeavor and freedom and peace for our open people and for those who choose to join us."

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed altogether fitting and proper that we remember and honor all victims of terrorism here in our Nation's capital. This memorial will mark the time in the course of our Nation's history when freedom and the respect for the dignity of man overcame prejudice, hate, and evil. It will stand for the time in our Nation's history when our country stood tall, persevered, and defended peace and civility for all mankind.

I know every Member of this House will join in adoption of H.R. 911.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New Jersey thanks the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the chairman of the Committee on Resources, for yielding to me; and I thank him for his vision of this national memorial. I congratulate the gentleman because in coming from the New York-New Jersey region, we particularly salute him for helping us remember so many people who lost loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, today we reflect on the event of September 11, 2001, and express our deep sorrow, grief, and heartache for the victims of that tragic day and pledge never to forget them. There were about 700 New Jerseyans who were lost in those attacks and many more from New York State, other States and from other nations, as well as we remember today the lives lost at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

In the face of terrorist attacks, we witnessed the remarkable bravery of EMS and first aid men and women, firefighters and police officers, including many from my State who were first on the scene, who selflessly raced into the heavily damaged World Trade Center towers to aid and rescue those in need. It was not until later that we learned that so many of them never made it out. Today we will remember their bravery and pay our respects to their families.

Like so many of us, I was touched by many heartbreaking stories and pleas

from families, but one encounter I had continues to resonate with me and remind me of the tragedy of that day. On a cold, blustery, early morning in October of last year, a man walked up to me at a train station and said, "Congressman, I am angry." My first thought was that he did not agree with one of my votes in Congress or he did not like the outcome of a constituent case matter that we had tried to help him with. But then he said, "I lost my brother in the World Trade Center on September 11 and I want you to be angry too. I want you to never stop being angry."

Before leaving the train station that morning and having heard this man's plea, I walked over to a tree planted in memory of the victims of September 11, many of whom came from that small town. There was a plaque in part that read under the tree and I quote, "We shall never forget our friends and neighbors who rode the rails with us that morning but did not return with us that night."

We will forever remember the victims who died at the hands of such evil men on that day. And I think we can also promise that we will never stop being angry over the attacks on our country, and this memorial proposal by the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the ranking member and his committee may help in that regard.

Ensuring the safety and security of our Nation and my State is my duty. To protect our communities and neighborhoods, we are continuing to implement a variety of strategies for homeland security. That includes full and unfledged support for our police officers, firefighters and first aiders, defense against bioterrorism, security at our ports, harbor crossings, railroads and road networks, and new procedures and standards for preparing and standards when responding to emergencies.

Along with President Bush, I can assure you that the government at every level is responding to terrorist threats, working to track down every lead, and standing watch 24 hours a day against terrorism. We remain resolved and vigilant in our efforts. We know that our work will not be done until every American is free from fear of future terrorist attacks. This memorial, this excellent proposal, this excellent vision will be a living one as has been said, such that we will never forget.

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much on this very honored day to have the opportunity to join my colleagues and to thank the chairman for the wisdom of his committee and his leadership, and to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), the ranking member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, for his

leadership and vision and for the expansion of the concept of 9/11, and that is that we value lives, we honor lives, we cherish life and the sacrifices that have been made, the enormity of the sacrifice that was made on 9/11, that struck a chord at the heart and soul of this Nation, where over thousands of Americans lost their lives and others lost their lives at the hands of the horrific act of terrorism.

But yet this memorial, which will be comprised of individuals and family members and others who have experienced the pain of terrorism, speaks to all who have lost their lives under that terrible mantle. So today I think 9/11 is not only to recount where we were, this body, on 9/11, 2001, this Congress had convened, Members were in meetings, and the Nation's business was being carried on. And then a singular and fateful day brought about a multitude of actions that will impact families around the world forever.

I believe this memorial has a good sense to it, common sense like we would like to think Americans have. First of all, we cherish our Constitution. We do believe that we all are created equal as the Declaration of Independence so states, and we pride ourselves in having the unique Bill of Rights that gives us the right to freedom of expression and movement, freedom of religion. So out of that we have been able to have the longest democracy without violence amongst us. We fought wars, both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War; but we have maintained a sense of appreciation for the ability to disagree. We have not taken up the sword against each other to be able to make our point. This body exemplifies democracy and is a tribute to those who lost their lives in terrorist acts, that we would not fall under the sword. So this morning I rise to pay tribute to the beautiful and wonderful families of these brave victims. The legacy will live on.

I also acknowledge that we as a Nation will toll bells and lay wreaths and we will have a number of silent moment, reflecting upon the spirit and as well, the joy in the lives that were lived. But as this committee, the Select Committee on Homeland Security, was, in fact, instituted, we are strong. Our hearts are filled with resolve. Our hearts are filled with love and admiration for those who have survived and yet those who do not live.

We are resolved that as we promote memorials and honor this day, that we will never forget the reason and the cost. The reason was because we live in a democracy and out of that we generate hatred. The cause is to preserve the democracy and to continue to celebrate with excitement and joy the fact that those brave souls who died at Ground Zero, in the field in Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon did not die in vain. I believe we have challenges this morning, Mr. Speaker, to enhance our first responders, the men and women in blue, our firefighters, our

neighbors, to provide them with the full funding that they need to fight the war on terrorism right in our own backyards.

We need to be able to secure this Nation, not out of fear, but out of resolve. We need to promote the Constitution and cherish it as well. Proudly we need to boast that we are a democracy and we do believe in freedom. And I would say, Mr. Speaker, that we clearly do not ever need to stop commemorating this day. Never do we need to say enough is enough. For evil is amongst us and will continue to be so. And the only way that we can overcome it is to be the walking, living legends of the democracy of this Nation.

What we do in this body reflects every day the tribute to those who lost their lives. I do applaud the vision of those who are not fearful of monuments and memorials in times to consider the bounty of this Nation.

Might I take this day as well acknowledging that it is a sad day because it is a commemorative day, to be able to challenge our friends and neighbors, to be on the battlefield for justice and democracy, to fight against discrimination, to recognize a principle that I think is very important, that immigration does not equate to terrorism. I would think that as this particular legislation will move that we will have an enthusiastic response. It will be probably as emotional in its passage, comparable I guess maybe to the good times in the history of this Nation, maybe and maybe not.

It will come to be as the inspiration that Francis Scott Key received as he wrote the "Star Spangled Banner," as he saw the flag still waving amidst the violence of explosion and bombs and cannons and the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that the flag was still there.

Mr. Speaker, I came to this floor because I believe that America should never forget, and I would challenge Americans never to be too tired, too dated to be able to pay tribute to those who walked in freedom, those who gave their lives and particularly were willing to challenge and stand up to terrorists.

Today, as a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security and as an American, I join with the world family and solicit them not only to honor those who have lost their lives through terrorist acts, and particularly those who lost their lives in 9/11, but I challenge them to make freedom real and to make the fight against terrorism particularly real.

□ 1130

Let us not do it against each other, but let us do it in unity. So in the words of Martin Luther King, I ask that this Nation and the world walk in freedom.

I ask as well that we stand up to the finish and never give up. Then I will say that I ask that we pray for justice,

to stand united resisting injustice. I believe if we do that, the prayers of those of us who some day will look to a world of peace where terrorism has been stomped out will have a memorial like 9/11 to remind us and the lives of those who died on 9/11 and would cherish those who have been the victims of terrorism that we will say to them that we have never, never given up.

God bless this Congress. God bless America. God bless all of those who will stand with us to fight against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank the authors of this resolution for giving us all this opportunity to reflect upon what September 11 meant to us, and to our districts, and to the Nation.

It is a beautiful day today. There are just a few fluffy clouds scattered across our stunning blue skies. Across the Nation, people are working, playing, traveling, taking care of business and their families, and by and large, going about their normal lives. It is day much like that day 2 years ago, the day of the horrific events in Washington, New York City, and Pennsylvania. It is a testament to the tremendous resolve and strength of the American people that so quickly we have come back, almost to a state of normalcy.

But 2 years later, life still is not really back to normal. Over 3,000 innocent Americans are no longer with us. In a flash of violence, they have been snatched from us—a blow to their friends and families that has been felt by every American. Among the victims were people from every walk of life and every ethnic group. The list included Barbara Olson, who fought steadfastly for the things in which she believed. Although we sat on opposite sides of many issues, I will always consider her to be an honored member of the Houston family. We as a Nation will toll bells, lay wreaths and have moments with no words at all planned for the sad commemoration of the terrorist assault that killed more than 3,000 of our mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers. Our hearts go out to the families of those victims as well as to those who have served and still serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom and post-war efforts to rebuild Iraq.

Two years ago today, many of us, as Americans, might have been asking the questions: Why is this happening? Who are we? How are we going to get through this? These are questions that almost every people in the history of civilization has been forced to ask. But the answers that we have come to, and the ways we have risen to the challenges that face us, have been uniquely American and have truly made me proud to be a member of this great nation.

The terrorists who attacked us on September 11, 2001 might have thought that in that horrific act of violence that we would crumble. They might have expected that because we came from all walks of life and spoke different languages when we first came to this Nation, that because we cherish our respective cultures, that the coalition would disintegrate. They thought that we would no longer be America, that we would desert each other and that we would fragment into a mosaic of isolated groups based on ancestry. They thought we would put up barriers, pointing fingers and accusing each other.

But we fooled them because America is still a nation, not just of the free, but also of the brave. It is in fact a very special place; and to a greater extent than any other time in our lifetimes, Americans stood united. America was built on diversity, by ships of pilgrims, by those in the bottoms of slave-ships and by others who walked across our borders. That diversity will not be our downfall; it is our greatest strength. We did not undermine our democratic ideals or attack our Constitution. We stood firm.

As we of Congress gathered last year in the historic Federal Hall in New York City, and then as we came together again before the Pentagon, one sight brought peace and hope to my troubled heart—a great symbol that has inspired so many people around the world over the past two centuries. As I watched our flag began to blow in that morning's wind, it reminded me of the words of Francis Scott Key. I understood why he was so moved to write the "Star Spangled Banner," for as he looked up into a war-torn sky, alight with violent explosions, he wrote:

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

It was not despite the war raging around him that he was able to contemplate his passion for America; indeed, it was because of it. What might cause some to flee and desert their Nation, illuminated Old Glory, enlightened him and gave him the inspiration to write one of the most wonderful testaments to what being an American is. It was that same spirit of courage in the face of danger, demonstrated in 1814, that was powerfully embodied by those who died on Flight 93 in Somerset, PA. When they recognized the horror that befell them, they were inspired to do what needed to be done to prevent further bloodshed, and they acted heroically.

As a member of Congress, I commend their actions. But also, as one person who was hard at work that very day inside the Capitol Building—the intended target of the fourth vicious attack—I, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, owe a personal debt of gratitude to those who lost their lives that day, and their friends and family who survive. I humbly thank them all.

Today I would also like to salute those first responders who helped us all survive: the police, the firefighters, the paramedics, all the medical professionals, and just plain ordinary people, the volunteers, the men and women of the United States military who continue to stand at the front line of freedom and opportunity and justice, the unsung heroes, many of whom did not live to write their own songs, to tell their own stories. We honor them all, the survivors and the deceased, and all of their families. We honor them and thank them for their sacrifices.

I spoke last year to a man who lost his wife in Somerset, PA, and his words were chilling to me. It reminded me of the importance of the resolve of this Nation and of this government. He said simply, "I do not understand. I'm still living through this. I do not know how I'm going to get through it." For him and for the Nation, this fight is not over. That gentleman, however, may take comfort in the way that America has come together, in knowing that anytime America is attacked that no American will stand alone, but instead we will stand together arm-in-arm.

The U.S. government came together, with State, local, and Federal officials working as one. In a country the size of America, there will always be missteps, but for the most part, although we were diverse, we did not use this time to attack any culture, or believers of any faith or any distinctive ethnic group. We came together.

Again I think back to last year at the Pentagon, a building that has long been a tremendous symbol of strength, and is now also an embodiment of the American ability to survive. Though the smoke and dust has settled at the Pentagon, a haze remains over America. We are still in a fight for justice, a fight against terrorism, in an ongoing war for freedom. But I know in my heart that we will emerge from that haze. Through it we will see that same flag seen by Francis Scott Key. For in response to his question:

O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

I answer with a resounding and unequivocal, "Yes. It surely does."

God bless America and God bless its people.

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again want to thank Chairman POMBO for his leadership on this legislation along with the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) as well as their Democratic counterparts, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN). They have done an outstanding job in helping us put this bill together along with the 218 cosponsors who joined us.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the staff who worked on this bill over the last 2 years to be sure that it was in the proper form to accomplish our objective. On the majority side, Rob Howarth did an excellent job working on this bill, David Watson on the minority staff as well, and Trent Ashby and Amy Valentine on my staff. And we appreciate their good work.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the House to adopt H.R. 911, legislation creating a national memorial to the victims of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) for his perseverance in moving this bill through the process. This has been a long time in coming. It is a bill that has passed the House previously. I look forward to this bill being enacted and being signed into law. And I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. POMBO. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

REQUEST TO ADD MEMBER AS COSPONSOR

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be added

as a cosponsor before we pass this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The Chair will not recognize that request. The gentleman must go through the sponsor and be added.

Mr. TURNER. I certainly would welcome the cosponsorship, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would just urge my colleagues for an aye vote on the legislation.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1538, "The True American Heroes Act" and H.R. 911 to create a "Memorial for Victims of Terrorism." Enacting both of these important bills today is a fitting tribute to the victims of the terrorist attacks launched against the United States two years ago this morning.

The September 11 attacks were devastating, but our Nation was never weakened. The attacks were perpetrated because of the terrorists' hatred of the American values of liberty, democracy and equality. Hundreds of the victims were parents working hard every day and praying for better futures filled with love and hope for their children. Some victims were young children on their first airplane flight. Others were sons and daughters, the pride of their families, making it on their own in New York City. Twenty were U.S. soldiers, thirty-three were sailors, sixty-one were federal civilian employees, and nine were Army and Navy contractors beginning their morning at the Pentagon, and all of them were living the American dream. Ordinary Americans were transformed into heroes as the two jets brought down the World Trade Center, when the third tore into the Pentagon, and when the fourth was thrust into a Pennsylvania field. Two years from September 11, we remember and honor those brave Americans, their sacrifice, and we promise to never forget them.

Our nation has remained robust because our strength derives not from tall skyscrapers or fleets of airliners, but because America is defined more by its values than borders, and is defined less by our past than by our promise. Rarely have those values of democracy and freedom been more clearly demonstrated in our country's short history than on September 11, 2001. As the gravest moments arrived, many ordinary citizens fueled by instinct, courage and grace, rushed toward the flaming buildings in order to rescue their fellow Americans or to overwhelm terrorist-controlled cockpits in order to defeat their destructive plans.

Every community was shocked and scarred by these catastrophes. My hometown of Chicago suffered the loss of five women, who left their friends and family bereft. But more than shock or horror, generosity, strength and selflessness characterized Chicago's response. Although my city is a thousand miles away from New York, Chicagoans rushed to assist New Yorkers, Pentagon workers, and rural Pennsylvanians and support them as our neighbors. Whether they were Chicago firefighters hurrying to Ground Zero or school children writing letters to comfort their fellow pupils in New York, Chicago responded with its renowned heart and generosity. And so did every community across the country.

Mr. Speaker, we observe September 11 not only to recognize the lives cut short by hatred, but also to honor the genuine American heroes. These many men and women include

firefighters, police officers, paramedics, emergency technicians, and all rescue workers who cast aside concern for their own safety to rush to save the lives of other Americans in harm's way. Their bravery and commitment serve as shining examples of why they remain role models that our children emulate.

We must also pause today to honor the sacrifices and continuing heroism of our courageous service men and women who left family and friends in order to defend our nation in the global war against terror. U.S. troops are fighting, sacrificing and serving extended tours of duty so that the men, women and children of Afghanistan, Iraq and other nations suffering under the heavy burden of tyranny and terror may share the freedom and inalienable human rights that Americans enjoy. We owe them our resolve to defeat terrorism, and to ensure that here at home leaders are charting the proper course.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate to reflect today on how we as a nation can better demonstrate American values. As we nurture burgeoning democracies beyond foreign shores, we must also align our priorities with human rights and with freedom here at home. Let those left behind pay tribute to those who died by reaffirming our commitment as a nation to freedom and defense of human dignity, and in so doing keep our nation strong. To that end, I strongly support this legislation creating a memorial for the victims of terrorism, and ensuring that our public safety workers have all the resources that they need to do their jobs continuing to prepare and protect America.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, in marking the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we remember and honor the 3,000 innocent men, women and children who lost their lives that day. We continue to grieve with, and reach out to, the families of the victims.

We also continue to express our gratitude to our "First Responders." We should take a moment, again, to honor and thank the firefighters, police officers, and other emergency personnel who continue to put their lives on the line, day in and day out, to protect us from dangers, both foreign and domestic.

On the solemn anniversary of these terrible attacks, we are reminded that a terrorist is, by definition, a coward—a person who cannot get what he wants by the power of persuasion and therefore resorts to killing innocent people. The attacks of September 11, 2001, were basic violations of the fundamental principle that life is to give, not to take. We must continue to show the world that the forces of evil shall not prevail. We pray for the brave American men and women serving in our Armed Forces, and we continue to pray for the victims and their families and wish them strength as they carry on in spite of their tremendous loss.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, we learn from the Bible in Romans 12:21, "Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good." In the a.m. hours of September 11, 2001, a great evil befell America. Around 3000 lives were lost and over 281 million American felt the pain of their passing. Two years later we still feel that loss.

Victims of this terrible tragedy came from all across this country, including Dr. Paul Ambrose of my home state of West Virginia, a talented and public-spirited young physician, was on the airplane that the terrorists crashed into the Pentagon.

The two grand towers of New York City, the symbol of our Nation's strength here in Washington, DC, a field in Southern Pennsylvania, and America itself was struck a mighty blow two years ago, but on that day, the enduring spirit of the United States of America overcame evil with the human goodness and love of their fellow man and woman.

In the aftermath of the attacks, Americans across our great land, including my home State of West Virginia, volunteered their services. Policemen, firemen, doctors, nurses, steelworkers, construction crews, plumbers, electricians, engineers, including members IOUE's National Hazardous Materials Program based in Beaver, West Virginia. Don Carson, the program's director, and a team of workers from the Beaver facility were among the first out-of-state workers to arrive at Ground Zero immediately after the September 11th terrorist attacks. They and many more giving individuals put their lives on hold to help in the search for the lives of others and to assist in the immense job of rebuilding New York, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, and the rest of America.

But, there was one thing they did not have to rebuild and that was America's resolve. Never had its presence been stronger. We suffered the worst attack on our own soil against civilians that this country has ever experienced, and though the number of lives lost was devastating, the world witnessed America's resolve on that fateful day.

Patrick Henry told us in the beginnings of what would be the most powerful Nation in the world, "United we stand. Divided we fall." Americans from all creeds, all religions, all backgrounds, from north to south, east to west, united behind each other that Tuesday morning and for the days that followed, proving Patrick Henry's words true. Though the World Trade Center towers eventually collapsed under great stress from heat and pressure, for the last two years America never wavered.

I am proud to be an American today, and I am proud to say that many my fellow West Virginians have given of themselves so much to those who suffered two years ago and who still feel the pain of loss. We have stood together in the face of great, unspeakable tragedy and we will continue to stand together in the face of triumph.

May God bless this great Nation, and give us the strength to serve his will.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, September 10, 2003, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield to the majority

to inquire about the schedule for next week. I am pleased to yield to my friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Georgia for yielding to me. I would be happy to talk about the schedule for next week.

The House has completed its work for this week. Our business is over. All members and staff are invited to attend a remembrance ceremony today in memory of those innocent lives that were lost 2 years ago this morning in the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and here at the Pentagon. This ceremony will begin at noon on the West Front of the Capitol.

With regard to next week's schedule, Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour, 2 p.m. for legislative business. At that time we expect to consider several measures under suspension of the rules as well as potential motions to go to conference.

Any votes called on the measures that will be considered Tuesday afternoon will be rolled until after 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the House will meet for legislative business at 10:00 a.m. We expect to consider legislation under suspension of the rules on Wednesday.

Next week, we also plan to consider H.R. 7, the Charitable Giving Act of 2003, and H.R. 1829, the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2003.

In addition, I would like to note that we may consider one or more conference reports towards the end of the week. Members should be aware that we will be in session Thursday, possibly late into the evening on Thursday, in order to complete these important pieces of legislation.

Finally, I would like to note that for all Members we do not plan to have votes next Friday, September 19. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding to me, and I would be happy to answer any questions that he may have.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to yield in order for the gentleman to clarify which appropriation bills we expect to move or he expects to move to go to conference on next Tuesday. We are hearing that the DOD, Military Construction and Legislative branch bills are possible.

Mr. PORTMAN. I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia for yielding further and he is exactly right. The Senate has requested conference on those three appropriations bills, Legislative branch, the DOD, and the Mil Con bill, Military Construction. We expect to move to appoint conferees to one or more of these on Tuesday afternoon. In addition, as the Senate completes additional measures, I would anticipate the possibility of going to conference on additional items as well next week.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will further yield to inquire, is there any other bill possible? What about the

Labor-HHS-Education bill, does the gentleman expect we will move to go to conference on this bill next week?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a possibility. I respond to my friend from Georgia, we do not have a request yet from the Senate on that legislation for conference, but it is possible that we could move the Labor-HHS bill next week as well.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I will further yield to my friend from Ohio. What about the charitable choice tax bill, what type of rule might we expect on this bill? Will amendments or a substitute be allowed?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague on the Committee on Ways and Means will recall, we did have a good debate in the committee on this legislation, and it is a bipartisan piece of legislation, the Charitable Giving Act. I do not know frankly what the Committee on Rules is going to do in terms of the structure of the rule. I am convinced that there will be a good debate on it, and we will have a motion to recommit and possibly a substitute, but I just do not know what the Committee on Rules is going to decide in terms of how the rule is structured.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will not continue to keep my colleague long, but I would like to know, and I will yield, will the FAA conference report be on the floor next week? If so, which day?

Mr. PORTMAN. That is a good question. If the gentleman will continue to yield, the FAA authorization expires at the end of September, as the gentleman knows, and we need to pass this legislation before that time. Otherwise, airports across the country will risk losing their grants to upgrade everything from their instrument landing systems to their runways they need to expand. So we do intend to schedule this important legislation before the end of September so we do not get into that problem, but at this point we are not certain if it will come to the floor next week or the following week.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to yield to inquire, the gentleman suggested that there may be other conference reports. Can we expect to have any other conference report on the floor next week? If so, which conference reports might we have?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague yielding further. It is possible that we would have a couple of other conference reports. Certainly the energy bill is a possibility. There may be good progress, we understand, in that conference. Everybody is eager to be sure, with the blackouts and with our increasing dependence on foreign oil, we move forward a national energy strategy. So that is one possibility.

Another would be the Department of Defense authorization bill, which is also in conference, and as my colleague knows, with these conference reports it is difficult to predict what will happen in conference, but if those conferences