

families, a courage and determination that made the 9/11 Commission possible, overcoming opposition here and across town.

We have an obligation to keep faith with those who perished and with the families they left behind. The best way we can do that is to take the 9/11 Commission recommendations seriously and act on them with dispatch.

□ 1015

For a new generation of Americans, the phrase "Remember Pearl Harbor" has been replaced by "Remember 9/11."

Madam Speaker, let us honor those that we lost and the loved ones they left behind by acting expeditiously and in a bipartisan fashion to bring the 9/11 Commission recommendations to reality.

#### INTRODUCING H.R. 5038, THE AMERICAN HEROES ACT

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

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, we will soon double the size of this Capitol, adding a new Visitors Center. As the first thing visitors see, this space must reflect the values of our Nation and the way it inspires young Americans to public service.

Today I am leading a bipartisan group of Members to introduce the American Heroes Act, H.R. 5038. The act authorizes a statue honoring the people of United Flight 93 who fought the first battle in the war on terror over the skies of Pennsylvania. But for their sacrifice, the Capitol might have been destroyed.

We also authorize each State to add one new hero after essay contests in America's high schools. In this way, the new entrance to our temple of democracy will have new heroes adding to the pantheon in the Capitol.

As we approach the third anniversary of September 11, let us honor the heroes of Flight 93 who gave their lives to protect Washington, and let us also make sure that when this Capitol expands, it is filled with men and women who inspire us, especially young Americans, to public service.

#### MISSING CLASSMATES

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, as children across the country begin a new school year, some do so with missing classmates. The problem with child abduction goes on.

Seven months ago Monday, Carlie Brucia's remains were found after a stranger took her at a gas station. Now the seventh-graders at McIntosh Middle School in Florida are missing their classmate.

Three weeks ago, 7-year-old Patricia Miles was found suffocated after going

on a bike ride in Arkansas. Children at Turrell Elementary School are also missing a classmate today.

Missing children from every walk of life, in many circumstances: stranger abduction, parental abduction, international abduction, all need our attention. Next Friday I will host a child safety forum for southeast Texans, and I call on members of the caucus and on all of my colleagues to hold similar events across the country. We must empower Carlie and Patricia's classmates and all children to know and use safety rules.

#### ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO EXPIRE

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

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to express urgency and remind the House that the existing ban on semiautomatic assault weapons will expire in only a few days, this coming Monday, September 13.

Reports continue to show that 70 percent of Americans believe that the ban should be maintained. In fact, the law enforcement community, the health care community, and the administration all agree that this ban should be allowed to continue to protect our communities from our increased vulnerability associated with allowing semiautomatic weapons back on our streets.

Some say that we do not have the votes to extend this ban, but Americans deserve a full debate and a House vote before we allow the expiration date to pass.

There is no reason not to go forward at this point; we have only 5 days left.

Do people need an assault weapon to protect their home? No. Do people need an assault weapon to hunt? No. Do people need an assault weapon to target shoot? No. But criminals use assault weapons to kill.

The ban should not be allowed to expire. I implore leadership to let us vote on continuing the ban.

#### RIISING HEALTH CARE COSTS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the rising health care costs facing our seniors.

This last week the administration announced that American seniors will face the largest premium increase in Medicare's history. Instead of roughly \$67, now it is going to go up to \$78 a month for their Medicare Part B premiums.

The difference amounts to a huge increase, far exceeding inflation or any potential cost-of-living adjustment that our seniors receive under Social Security. This adds to the Government

Accounting Office just last week asking for part of the salary back from the person who withheld information from this Congress when we passed the Medicare reform bill last year.

We should not force our seniors to bear the brunt of the increased cost of Medicare. The administration's actions will force them to come up with an extra \$132 a year just to cover the increased premium. For the average senior receiving Social Security, this represents 10 percent of their monthly budget. Unfortunately, if precedent is any indicator, seniors will continue to see double-digit Medicare premium increases under a second Bush administration.

It is downright shameful to saddle our seniors with the cost of the administration's failed health policies. America's seniors deserve better.

#### MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT IRAQ

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the war in Iraq is one that we all understand is not easily won. The enemy does not play by our rules of engagement. They have no conscience, they have no decency, they have no moral compass.

Yet the same anger, arrogance, and ignorance that fuels these terrorists who have lashed out at citizens across the globe is now, according to JOHN KERRY, a sign of the Iraqi people's "frustration" with the Bush administration.

Yes, there are pockets of resistance within Iraq, but KERRY's assertion that the Iraqis are acting out in political dissension with the Bush administration's military strategy is ludicrous.

Madam Speaker, Iraqis are not lashing out through political activism, they are shooting American soldiers. They are killing the very same people who have come to help them. Mr. KERRY should be more focused on reality and less on political rhetoric. Our soldiers have risked it all to liberate Iraq and the Iraqi people.

#### SO-CALLED ECONOMIC RECOVERY

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss our so-called "economic recovery."

Last week I visited a woman in my district named Carol Jones. Nine months ago Carol had a job at an investment firm, a steady income, a health care plan, and a pension. But she had something more. She had security.

Then, like so many others struggling to get by, Carol was laid off, went on for months on end without a job, supporting herself on unemployment benefits and, when those ran out, her savings, which are now all but depleted.

The good news for Carol is that after 9 months of unemployment, she will at last be going back to work at her new job at Target. But Carol will be earning significantly less than she made at her last job, and because the job is part-time, Carol will have no benefits for the next 6 months, and this is what the Bush administration calls "turning the corner on the economy."

Madam Speaker, 8 million people out of work, and 82 million people facing monthly premiums for health insurance that have increased by nearly 14 percent this year alone. The Carol Joneses of the world deserve better than this, much better. They deserve a real plan to jump-start the economy, a plan that lowers health care costs, that creates good-paying jobs, and gets workers back their dignity. That is what the American people want, and that is what this majority should be working on.

#### 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, 3 years ago this Saturday, at precisely this hour, I found myself standing in the sunlight of a September morning in this city near the elm tree on the Capitol grounds. Like so many of my colleagues, I experienced September 11 in Washington, D.C., and not just the smoke-filled skies and pandemonium that followed those moments, but I experienced the lack of deliberation that followed those times.

It is in that spirit that I rise, as I did the day the 9/11 Commission report was produced, to say that this Congress should proceed with deliberation, but as one of my Democrat colleagues said, with dispatch, in considering and enacting many, if not all, of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

The people of this country believe that they have sent us here, men and women in Congress, to consider the changes that are necessary to advance the security and liberty of the American people; not to write a blank check to independent commissions, but to deliberate, because, God forbid, should a day strike America like that day in September again, or like the days that have struck the people of Russia or of Spain in recent days, there will be a lack of deliberation, and the opportunity to thoughtfully consider these proposals will have gone by.

#### BUSH ECONOMIC POLICIES ARE BAD FOR AVERAGE AMERICANS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, the Republicans have performed a hat trick. They have control of the House,

the White House, and the Senate, and now they are trying to pull a rabbit out of a hat.

They need money, piles and piles of it.

The President's tax giveaway to the very rich soaked average Americans and drained the U.S. Treasury. The President's Iraq war is bleeding the U.S. economy and ballooning the Federal deficit.

It will only get worse.

Administration surrogates now openly talk about remaining in Iraq for decades. The Pentagon's annual budget is already close to the entire Federal deficit. To feed the President's war, every domestic program, from Medicare to veterans' health, to low-income housing, is on the table. Make no mistake. Domestic programs are going to be squeezed hard, just like the middle class. This is the lemon that we have in the White House.

It is the Republican way. Why be fair when you can govern by fear?

Think about it. The 2nd of November, it is coming.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 757) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The Clerk will report the title of the resolution.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of House Resolution 757 is as follows:

#### H. RES. 757

Whereas on September 11, 2001, while Americans were attending to their daily routines, terrorists hijacked four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and a third into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C., and a fourth was prevented from also being used as a weapon against America by brave passengers who placed their country above their own lives;

Whereas three years later the country continues to, and shall forever, mourn the tragic loss of life at the hands of terrorist attackers;

Whereas by targeting symbols of American strength and success, these attacks clearly were intended to assail the principles, values, and freedoms of the United States and the American people, intimidate the Nation, and weaken the national resolve;

Whereas three years after September 11, 2001, the United States is fighting a Global War on Terrorism to protect America and her friends and allies;

Whereas since the United States was attacked, it has led an international military coalition in the destruction of two terrorist regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq while using diplomacy and sanctions in cooperation with

Great Britain and the international community to lead a third terrorist regime in Libya away from its weapons of mass destruction;

Whereas the United States is reorganizing itself in order to more effectively wage the Global War on Terrorism by transforming the Department of Defense, sharpening the Federal Bureau of Investigation's counterterrorism focus, strengthening the authority of the Director of Central Intelligence to coordinate national intelligence activities, and creating a Department of Homeland Security;

Whereas of the senior al-Qaida leaders, operational managers, and key facilitators that the United States Government has been tracking, nearly two-thirds of such individuals have been taken into custody or killed;

Whereas just as significant, with the help of its allies, the United States has disrupted individuals and organizations that facilitate terrorism—movers of money, people, messages, and supplies—who have acted as the glue binding the global al-Qaida network together;

Whereas Pakistan has taken into custody more than 500 members of al-Qaida and the Taliban regime, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Ramzi bin al Shibh, conspirators in the September 11, 2001, attacks, and Kahallad Ba'Attash, an individual involved in the planning of the attack on the USS COLE in 2000;

Whereas Jordan continues its strong counterterrorism efforts, arresting two individuals with links to al-Qaida who admitted responsibility for the October 2002 murder in Amman, Jordan, of Lawrence Foley, a United States Agency for International Development Foreign Service Officer;

Whereas in June 2002, Morocco took into custody al-Qaida operatives plotting to attack United States Navy ships and ships of other member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the Strait of Gibraltar;

Whereas the United States and its allies in Southeast Asia have made significant advances against the regional terrorist organization Jemaah Islamiyah, which was responsible for the attack in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2003 that killed more than 200 people;

Whereas Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and other countries in Southeast Asia have taken into custody leaders and operatives of local al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist organizations and members of al-Qaida traveling through such countries;

Whereas the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and other countries have disrupted cells of the al-Qaida terrorist organization and are vigorously pursuing other leads relating to terrorist activity;

Whereas following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States Government initiated innovative programs, such as the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism program and the Container Security Initiative, to extend our borders overseas and to secure and screen cargo before it is placed on ships destined for United States ports of entry;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security implemented the US-VISIT border security screening system in December 2003 at all air and sea ports of entry, requiring that nonimmigrant visa holders entering the United States be fingerprinted and screened through various criminal and terrorist databases before entry into the United States, and this system will be expanded to land ports of entry in accordance with congressional deadlines;

Whereas since September 11, 2001, the Coast Guard has conducted more than 124,000 port security patrols, 13,000 air patrols, boarded more than 92,000 vessels, interdicted over 14,000 individuals attempting to enter