

education in New York and across the country. Among other things, it will provide for comprehensive professional development for career and technical education teachers, increase States' flexibility to meet their unique needs, and align secondary and postsecondary indicators with those established in other programs to ultimately reduce paperwork.

I am particularly pleased that this bill also improves programs and services for women and girls pursuing non-traditional occupations. A few weeks ago at a HELP Committee hearing on vocational education, an inspiring woman from New York, Angela Olszewski, testified about how important it is that we support and encourage women and girls in their pursuit of nontraditional, traditionally "male" careers—in technology, math, science, and the construction and building trades. Unfortunately, women are still significantly underrepresented in these fields. For example, we know that while the number of women carpenters has tripled since 1972, they still only represent 1.7 percent of all carpenters. You can say the same about many other high-skill, high-wage trades.

Many of these skilled trades industries are experiencing a significant labor shortage and experts expect these shortages to get worse over the next two decades as many workers retire. If women were to enter these professions, most of which are unionized and pay a livable paycheck and benefits, women would increase their earnings and standard of living for their families. For example, a journey-level electrician will make over \$1,000,000 more than a typical cashier in a 30-year career. That would go a long way toward putting many women on the road towards self-sufficiency. I want all New York women—and women throughout the country—to have the same opportunities. This bill helps us toward that goal.

I also want to highlight another successful program started in New York called Project Lead the Way. This program builds partnerships among public schools, institutes of higher education, and the private sector to promote pre-engineering and technology courses for middle school and high school students. Project Lead the Way is now a presence in more than 875 schools in 39 States and should serve as an example for career and technical education of the future.

I am very pleased with this legislation; it shows that we are moving in the right direction, tweaking our education policies to better serve our Nation's career and technical students. I look forward to working with my colleagues as this bill goes to conference.

ESSAY FROM THE 9/11 FAMILY STEERING COMMITTEE

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following essay be printed in the RECORD on be-

half of Kristen Breitweiser, Patricia Casazza, Mindy Kleinberg and Lorie Van Auken who lost their husbands on September 11, 2001 and became advocates on behalf of their own families and all who were affected by the tragic events of that day.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WHAT IS A CITIZEN TO DO?

How could 19 middle-eastern men simultaneously hijack 4 commercial airplanes in two hours, crash them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and murder 3000 innocent people?

With the billions spent each year on defense and intelligence, why did our nation do so little in a defensive posture to mitigate the vast devastation that was brought upon us by these 19 men?

Our research began with every agency and every policy that could possibly shed some light on why the tragedy of 9/11 was not averted. With each revelation and each new understanding, our naiveté waned and the challenges loomed large. The problems were systemic in nature. Changes were needed everywhere. Agencies, 20 years after the Cold War had ended, were still operating in a Cold War posture. Terrorists were not watch-listed. FBI computers were antiquated. Intelligence agents and supervisors failed to analyze and investigate creatively, aggressively, and with curiosity. Congress and the Executive Branch failed to properly share their growing National Security concerns and garner the will of the nation to fight this new war against terrorism. The media was more prone to cover scandal than terrorism.

Our research revealed that numerous indicators throughout our intelligence history illustrated the use, or intended use of planes as missiles. We found field reports, case files and studies, eye witness testimony, intelligence community threat matrices, and Department of Defense mock drills all addressing the "planes as missiles" idea.

In fact, during the summer of 2001, President Bush attended the G-8 summit in Genoa Italy where specific protections were put into place to ward against an air attack. Moreover, FBI agents testified in the Embassy bombing trial in NYC during the spring of 2001 that al-Qaeda was interested in suicide hijackers flying planes into buildings—buildings like the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Finally, we learned that the Olympic Games in Atlanta and Salt Lake City had included aerial attacks in their security protocols.

Indeed, most haunting is what we found out about al-Qaeda and their attempt to attack Atlanta, Georgia during the summer Olympics. Because of the heightened protection and alert status during the Atlanta Games, al-Qaeda got "spooked" and called off their planned attack. And thus began the "what ifs?"

What if the pre-9/11 national security apparatus, agencies and institutions had matched themselves with similar alert levels? What if the 19 hijackers on 9/11 noticed that same type of vigilant security, gotten spooked themselves and delayed their attack by days or even months? More potently, would such a delay have given enough time to our Intelligence Community to discover and/or minimize the damage of the plot?

Could the FBI have had enough time to receive the FISA warrant on Zaccharias Moussaoui? After all, the FBI had enough information to meet probable cause for a FISA warrant because French intelligence in August 2001 had handed over a huge file on Moussaoui linking him to terrorist groups.

Moreover, given the fact that Moussaoui was attending the same flight school that the FBI had investigated since 1998 because of the many known middle-eastern terrorists training there, maybe the FBI could have applied for and received a simple criminal warrant.

Perhaps, the internal decision in May 2001 by FISA Court Chief Judge Royce C. Lamberth that had a "chilling effect" on all FBI surveillance and wiretapping of terrorist organizations—including Al-Qaeda cells in the US, during the spring and summer 2001 could have been lifted or at the very least tempered?

Or maybe the hijackers could have been watch-listed and forbidden to fly on commercial flights? What if the airline pilots were told that hijackers were capable of flying commercial airliners and to not allow anyone into the cockpit—whether or not they were in uniform? What if airport security was told to be on the lookout for possible terrorist suspects and/or contraband such as gas masks, mace, pepper spray, guns and/or knives?

Could the NSA have translated the phone conversations or intercepts of the hijackers, Bin Laden, Bin Laden family members, and other Al-Qaeda operatives that they had in their possession throughout the summer and early fall of 2001? Could the NSA have acted on and/or communicated this information to the FBI, CIA, and National Security Council in time?

Perhaps, FBI Agent David Frasca may have had the time to read the Phoenix memorandum and the Moussaoui information both of which were on his desk by August 2001 and put the two files together?

Could the FBI have had the time to find two of the hijackers, Al-Midhar and Al-hazmi, who were already under investigation for two years by the CIA after it had conducted surveillance on a terrorist meeting in Malaysia in January 2000? After all, Al-Midhar and Al-Hazmi were living in San Diego, listed in the phone book, had bank accounts in their own names, trained at flight schools and resided with a known FBI informant?

Could the CIA have found Marwan Al-Shehi? He was Mohammed Atta's roommate and visited the same flight school that Moussaoui was arrested at by the FBI. The CIA had the name "Marwan" and a phone number given to them by the German government. Could they have had the time to follow-up with this information?

Could our National Security Council's Principals who first met on September 4, 2001 had more time to hold a second meeting where they could have discussed the threat spikes and foreign government warnings from Russia, Israel, Germany, and Egypt that Al-Qaeda was planning an imminent and spectacular attack on the domestic US? Would our NSC Principals have had the time to harden our homeland security?

Could NORAD have placed fighter jets on shorter alert status, so that our air defense did not arrive too late like it did on 9/11? Perhaps, with over an hour's worth of notice before the attack on the Pentagon, the F-16's could have arrived on time to protect our Department of Defense.

Could we learn from this tragedy so that it would not be repeated? Could our fellow citizens be willing to shed sunlight onto the inadequacies of our government's ability to defend itself against terrorism? Could our elected officials cease the diversionary tactics of "mudslinging" and "name-calling" long enough to allow the facts to be revealed, examined, and fixed? Could the media no longer fall prey to sensational stories and feed the public information that truly informs and educates them about our nation's ability to fight terrorism?

Democracy cannot prosper on blind-faith. To work effectively, democracy's foundation—the people, must be well informed. And, in order to be more informed, more responsive, and more prepared for the challenges ahead, we must continue to ask questions to our leaders; that is our duty as responsible citizens. It is why the 9/11 Independent Commission's investigative work, public hearings, public Final Report and public Recommendations are so vital.

The only way elected officials, agencies and institutions can be held accountable and responsible is if we, the American people, stay vigilant and informed. Before 9/11, the will of the nation to fight terrorism was not present. Post 9/11, the will of this nation exists to confront the battle of terrorism.

But fighting terrorism is not simply an offensive strategy. It is a combined and cumulative process. We need the intelligence agencies to investigate more creatively and aggressively. We need our judicial process to permit the fair and just prosecution of terrorists. We need our foreign policy to issue sanctions to all countries that sponsor terrorism, even if that means our foreign economic dependency suffers. We need our Treasury Department to have the resources to dry up money lines that fund terrorist organizations. We need big business interests to yield to the common good.

Our elected officials who take an oath of office to lead, protect, and serve need to be held responsible and accountable. They must have the courage and curiosity to ask questions, to have established and reliable plans and back-up plans, to demand action, reforms and to welcome personal responsibility.

Most importantly, our elected officials need to remember that they are serving at the will of the people. As our public stewards, it should not be the sanctity of their own political well-being that most consumes their actions and decisions. More correctly, it should be the safety, security and well-being of the people that they serve that should pre-occupy their time.

In a post-9/11 world, it is the responsible preservation of all life that must transcend politics.

KRISTEN BREITWEISER,
PATRICIA CASAZZA,
MINDY KLEINBERG,
LORIE VAN AUKEN,

*Members of the 9/11
Family Steering
Committee for the 9/11
Independent Commission.*

Mrs. CLINTON. In light of the pending release of the 9/11 Commission report, I wish to recognize the Family Steering Committee for the 9/11 Independent Commission and their efforts to establish the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE CITY OF MENNO

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Menno, SD. The city of Menno has a proud past and a promising future.

The area that was to become the city of Menno was settled in 1874 by a group of Black Sea Germans from Russia. The great majority of settlers made

their living off the land. According to a U.S. Government survey, Menno and the land surrounding it is made up of some of the richest most fertile soil in the country. Menno owes its beginnings to the railroad industry, which brought much-needed commerce.

The city of Menno bears the name intended for the town of Freeman, 10 miles away. When railroad officials were nailing the signs bearing the names of new towns to the depots, the name boards of the neighboring towns of Menno and Freeman were accidentally interchanged. With the result that Menno derives its name from the large settlement of Mennonites at Freeman, called Mennonites because the sect was founded by Menno Simons, while the town of Freeman is named for an early settler of Menno. The city of Menno was officially settled in 1879.

Currently, more than 800 people live in Menno. The city has already started celebrations for its 125th anniversary and will continue them throughout the year. It is with great honor that I advise my colleagues of the achievements made by this great community. •

HONORING THE MUHLENBERG CAREER DEVELOP

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I take the opportunity to honor the Muhlenberg Career Development Center. Beginning with the groundbreaking in 1973, this institution has been working diligently to better the lives of all its students. This has been acknowledged by a four-star rating from the National Job Corps Association and by the National Job Corps Award for Excellence it received from the same association earlier this year. The Career Center also received a "Top 50" national ranking for Job Corps centers.

The Muhlenberg Career Development Center has a profound impact on the surrounding community. The center employs 135 men and women, making it the fourth largest employer in Muhlenberg County. The center also generates a substantial amount of revenue for the community through the contract it has with the Department of Labor. The standard of excellence set by the career development center is greatly appreciated by the 404 students who are currently working towards a GED and vocation there. The dedication exhibited by the Muhlenberg Career Development Center towards its students, county, State, and country deserves to be recognized and honored.

The citizens of Kentucky are proud to have the Muhlenberg Career Development Center as a part of their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth. The Muhlenberg Career Development Center has successfully found a way to bring out the best in its men and women. I personally thank the leaders and supporters of this great organization for continually producing strong and

bright men and women committed to making Kentucky a better place to live. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. NEAL R. BERGE

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my home State of Alabama. Dr. Neal Berte has been president of Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama since 1976. He recently retired, ending his 29 years of service to this great liberal arts institution. It has been my pleasure to work with Dr. Berte during my time in the Senate on issues affecting higher education and community service in the Birmingham area.

Dr. Berte recognized early on in his career the need to produce future leaders rich in a background of service to others. Therefore, he made service-learning a priority for himself and Birmingham-Southern students. Almost every student who graduates from Birmingham Southern College leaves the Hilltop having had some type of community-service experience. From serving food at a homeless shelter to mentoring children at the local elementary school, the opportunities are endless and involvement is always encouraged. Dr. Berte has led this effort by deeds, not words. He is the first to arrive at a service event and the last to leave. His involvement in the local community is unparalleled and has led to his being awarded Birmingham's Distinguished Citizen Award, Citizen of the Year, and the Erskine Ramsey Award for Outstanding Civic Service.

While developing and implementing an aggressive service-learning component to higher education has been a great achievement at Birmingham-Southern, it is far from being his only accomplishment. During the "Berte years," Birmingham-Southern College's student enrollment has doubled, the academic profile of the student body has increased and regularly leads other Alabama colleges and universities, the number of faculty has increased by almost 70 percent, the student-faculty ratio has lowered from 18-to-1 to 12-to-1, the campus has expanded, and the college's endowment has grown from \$11 million to more than \$122 million. It is difficult to fully gauge the impact Dr. and Mrs. Berte have had over the past 29 years, however, perhaps it is best captured in Dr. Berte's relationship with the students that have flowed through the campus. Dr. Berte's support of the student body has been unwavering. From attending campus sporting events to carrying the boxes of new students on move-in day, Dr. Berte's face has been a constant presence at events throughout each school year. Amazingly, he has learned the name and face of almost every student who has walked the halls at BSC and makes it a priority to greet each person he meets by name and to inquire about something occurring in his or her life at the moment. I think this