

the flag Liberty Union in 1774. There were buildings that played an important role in the Revolution. They were there in Taunton. Taunton Green is a major place in our history. We would include here the Church Green Historic District. It has the Church Green National Register district.

One of the original settlers, and I think this is particularly relevant to talk about, the modern impact of this, Elizabeth Pole was the first woman we believe to found a community in America, and on the seal of the city of Taunton the phrase "Dux Femina Facti" is included. That translates, I am reliably informed by better Latin scholars than myself, into "the person responsible for this was a woman."

It was in early recognition of what we are still dealing with, namely, that we make a great mistake when we refuse to give individuals the full opportunity to engage their talents, no matter what their gender or whatever other characteristics that they have.

I realize that this does not mean that we get a park immediately. It begins the process of study. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that an objective study of the sort we get from the excellent staff that we have at the National Park Service will document the importance to the history of this country of this area of Taunton and the importance of making it a part of our National Park System. I thank the two gentlemen from New Mexico for their energy and work in this.

Mr. Speaker, the following is a list of some of the salient points of the City of Taunton.

The city of Taunton has a history of equality, patriotism, commerce and innovation that make the areas ideal candidates for inclusion within the National Park System. The area to be included within the study includes the Church Green Historic District, which includes the Church Green National Register District, Main Street, and the Taunton Green National Register District.

Among the original settlers of Taunton, Elizabeth Pole is credited as being the first female to found a community in America. Her legacy is preserved at the Old Colony Historical Society Museum on Church Green. The role that Elizabeth Pole, a woman, played in founding Taunton is an important aspect of our colonial history that should be emphasized as part of the study. The National Park System has devoted many resources to the role of women in our nation and history. However, no other site presently in the National Park System matches the unique circumstances surrounding Ms. Pole and her role as a pioneering colonial female. The phrase "Dux femina facti" which translates into "the person responsible for the deed or accomplishment was a woman" adorns the Seal of the City of Taunton.

A statue of Robert Treat Paine symbolically faces away from the Church Green National Registered District down Main Street towards the Taunton Green National Registered District. With the transformation from English colony towards independent nation, the center of the city moved towards the Taunton Green. Robert Treat Paine, a Taunton resident, was as a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He along with John Adams served as members of the First Continental Congress in 1774. Paine and

Adams' careers were linked again as Paine served as an Associate Prosecutor at the trial of the Boston Massacre. Paine went on to become the first Attorney General of Massachusetts and was a member of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. While serving in the Continental Congress in October of 1774, Paine was not a party to the historic event that occurred near his home when the Sons of Liberty raised the "Liberty & Union" or "Taunton Flag" on October 21, 1774 over Taunton Green on a 112-foot Liberty Pole. The Liberty and Union flag that still flies over the Taunton Green is recognized as the first flag of open defiance to the crown.

In addition to Robert Treat Paine, Taunton's General David Cobb left his mark on the Revolutionary War. General Cobb served as aide-de-camp to General Washington and was entrusted with the duty of negotiating the evacuation of New York. After the war, General Cobb served as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Bristol County and was instrumental in preventing bloodshed in Bristol County during Shay's Rebellion.

As such, the history of the revolutionary war as symbolized by Robert Treat Paine, General Cobb, the Sons of Liberty and the Taunton Green are an important component of the study. The distance down Main Street from Church Green to Taunton Green past the homes of Paine and Cobb and Elizabeth Pole to the Liberty & Union Flag are symbolic of our transformation from colony to independent nation.

The anchor for the U.S.S. *Constitution* was forged in Taunton, as was the anchor for the Civil War's *Monitor*. The Taunton River served as a catalyst for industry and trade. At one point, Taunton was one of the busiest inland ports on the Atlantic coast.

The prime industry throughout Taunton history has been silver. To this day Taunton is known by many as the "Silver City." As with Taunton's political, cultural and religious legacy, the silver industry was born on Main Street, between Church Green and Taunton Green. In 1824, Isaac Babbitt invented and manufactured a new alloy that resulted in pewter ware of a greater quality than ever before manufactured. Two employees, Henry G. Reed and Charles E. Barton went on to found Reed and Barton, one of the oldest privately held companies in the nation and set a standard of excellence known throughout the world. The standards established by Reed & Barton are evident to this day; in 1994 Reed & Barton was selected to produce all of the victory medals for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the entire staff of the Committee on Resources, especially Dave Watkins, for their work on this bill.

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the staff, both majority and minority; and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for submitting this valuable legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1512, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MEMBERS KILLED IN KHOBAR TOWERS BOMBING

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 188) honoring the members of the United States Air Force who were killed in the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 188

Whereas June 25, 2005, marks the ninth anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996;

Whereas 19 members of the United States Air Force were killed in the bombing and 300 other Americans were injured;

Whereas the 19 airmen killed while serving their country were Captain Christopher Adams, Staff Sergeant Daniel Cafourek, Sergeant Millard Campbell, Senior Airman Earl Cartrette, Jr., Technical Sergeant Patrick Fennig, Captain Leland Haun, Master Sergeant Michael Heiser, Staff Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Staff Sergeant Ronald King, Master Sergeant Kendall Kitson, Jr., Airman First Class Christopher B. Lester, Airman First Class Brent Marthaler, Airman First Class Brian McVeigh, Airman First Class Peter Morgera, Technical Sergeant Thanh Nguyen, Airman First Class Joseph Rimkus, Senior Airman Jeremy Taylor, Airman First Class Justin Wood, and Airman First Class Joshua Woody;

Whereas the families of these brave airmen still mourn their loss;

Whereas three months after that terrorist bombing, on September 24, 1996, the House of Representatives agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 200 of the 104th Congress, honoring the victims of that terrorist bombing, and on the fifth anniversary of that bombing, on June 25, 2001, the House of Representatives agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 161 of the 107th Congress, concurred in by the Senate on July 12, 2002, further honoring the victims of that bombing;

Whereas those guilty of the attack have yet to be brought to justice; and

Whereas terrorism remains a constant and ever-present threat around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, the Congress—

(1) recognizes the service and sacrifice of the 19 members of the United States Air Force who died in that attack;

(2) calls upon every American to pause and pay tribute to those brave airmen;

(3) extends its continued sympathies to the families of those who died; and

(4) assures the members of the Armed Forces serving anywhere in the world that their well-being and interests will at all times be given the highest priority.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 188.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

□ 1600

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this resolution which reminds us that brave American service men and women willingly risk their lives to defend the United States' interests and the freedom and values that we all enjoy as citizens. Such commitment imposes on the rest of us an obligation, an obligation to ensure that we do not break faith with those who serve, and that we respond to such commitment by resolving to provide the necessary resources for our military forces to successfully carry out the missions assigned to them.

Nine years ago this past Saturday, a truck bomb exploded outside the fence around the Khobar Towers compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The bomb, estimated at more than 3,000 pounds, detonated about 85 feet from a residential housing unit that housed U.S. troops, killing 19 U.S. Air Force servicemen, and wounding hundreds of other Americans.

The force of that explosion destroyed or damaged six high-rise apartment buildings and shattered windows throughout the residential compound. Today, we honor the 19 airmen who gave their lives, the supreme sacrifice, at the hands of terrorists 20 miles away from Dhahran. This Congress joins me in paying tribute to those men who are individually recognized in H. Con. Res. 188.

Mr. Speaker, I thought when I was drafting this resolution that it is ironic that just a month ago we celebrated Memorial Day, where we honored the men and women who have died in the pursuit, and subsequently the defense, of freedom in wars, domestic and foreign, since the founding of our country. One week from today, we will be celebrating the founding of America, our birthday, the Declaration of Independence, upon which our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

As we celebrate our Fourth of July or Memorial Day on their designated day, they are a constant reminder of the sacrifice of these men. Twelve of the 19 men killed were based at Eglin Air Force Base in my district and several, along with their families, were constituents. It is my hope that all of America will pause and give thanks to their sacrifice.

This week in Washington, D.C., the parents and loved ones of many of those who sacrificed their lives are the

guests of the FBI, and some of them are here today in the House gallery as we present this resolution. I want to personally pay a word of deepest appreciation to the families of these heroes.

We can never undo the tragedy that they have lived. We can never alleviate the pain that I know is with each of them every day, but I would hope and I know my colleagues join me in this hope, that with the adoption of this resolution, they will take from our action some solace in the fact that we do not forget the contributions and sacrifices of their loved ones. They are much more than men in uniform to them; they were their lives.

Bridget Brooks, mother of Airman First Class Joseph E. Rimkus, is a constituent of mine and works at Eglin even today. I regret that she is not able to be here today, so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the kind of man who was lost, in his mother's own words.

"When Joseph joined the military, he told me that now he could have a flag on his coffin like his grandfather. He knew I worried about his safety and had not allowed him to join when he was 17, but he was so devoted to the military that in his last letter to me, he told me that I was his hero and he was going to make a career out of serving his country. He was so proud to be in the Air Force.

"As for his youth, he became the man of the house when his father abandoned us while serving a tour in Korea, and Joseph was my biggest supporter as I put myself through college. He called me the day he died, and his last words to me were that he loved me.

"He was the tenth firstborn son to be named Joseph. He did not talk about being a father because that was a done deal. Instead, he talked in great length of what kind of grandfather he would be.

"My family may never recover from this loss. Joseph was one of those rare souls who gave all. Before he left, he made sure that I knew he was a Christian and he would be a Catholic all of his life. Can you imagine how that knowledge has comforted me? There is no amount of money to pay for that. Even to this day, people still tell me how wonderful he was.

"In the court case against Iran, one airman, who I did not know, testified that while they were all huddled in mass after the bombing, and they knew the boys who were killed, it was Joseph's presence that he felt. That does not surprise me. Joseph was there for his friends. That is just what he would do."

Mr. Speaker, our action on this resolution is a message to those who died, their family members, our Nation and the rest of the world that we honor the sacrifices of these 19 airmen and the families that they left behind. They served with the highest and best military traditions. No one could have served better or given more.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me and the 47 original cosponsors in support of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 188 introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER). I appreciate all the work he has done on the Committee on Armed Services on which we both serve. He has been a valiant supporter of our men and women in uniform, our veterans, and our national security.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) outlined well the terrible tragedy that occurred at Khobar Towers. This was really brought home to me several years ago when I had the honor of participating in a Purple Heart ceremony at the Little Rock Air Force Base, a C-130 base in my district, one of those things that all of us Members at some point get the honor of doing.

During this ceremony, previous Purple Heart winners were introduced, and several of them were survivors of Khobar Towers, and it really brought home for me that for many of us Americans we hear these names, they sound exotic, they sound foreign, and yet for the families that are here with us today and the families of these men and women who died and were wounded, those names, those places, mean very much to them and their family.

We are also reminded by the tragedy at Khobar Towers, the attack on Khobar Towers, of the other sacrifices that our men and women in uniform have made at places that are not all that well known to many Americans.

We recall the attack on Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, at the U.S. military headquarters, November 13, 1995, in which we lost five servicemembers.

Then 2 years following the Khobar Towers attack, we had the attack against two of our embassies on August 7, 1998, one in Nairobi, Kenya, and the other in Tanzania. The two truck bombs killed 11 Americans, including three servicemembers, and hundreds of Kenyans and nearly a dozen Tanzanians.

Then we had the attack October 12, 2000, on the USS *Cole* and finally the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania.

So this is a very important reminder today of the sacrifice that our men and women in uniform are called on to make, but also the sacrifice that their family and friends and all of us make when we lose such fine, fine Americans.

Once again, I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) for introducing this resolution, and I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, June 25th, marked 9 years since the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers, the U.S. military housing facility in Saudi Arabia where 19 American servicemen were killed and hundreds wounded.

Four years ago, on June 21st, 2001, the United States indicted some of those who were responsible for those murders. While a few of these individuals have been identified, not one has been brought to trial yet. However long it takes, our country must continue to pursue and bring to justice all of those indicted and all those responsible for this murderous, terrorist act against our servicemen and our country. We must not rest until this has been accomplished.

Florida and our Nation lost too many innocent victims for this matter to be brushed aside.

Master Sergeant Michael G. Heiser, of Palm Coast, and Airman First Class Brian W. McVeigh, of DeBary, are 2 of the 19 heroes who left behind loved ones and families in my Congressional District. Their young lives were cut short when they made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The United States must never rest until those responsible for these deaths are brought to justice.

We know that these surviving relatives and all the others who lost their loved ones continue to feel the pain of great loss. We know that they cannot rest—until justice prevails.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 608 which recognizes the 9th anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

On the evening of June 25th, 1996, a truck bomb exploded in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. This terrorist attack killed 19 servicemen of the U.S. Air Force and wounded 300 other Americans. The bomb tore away an entire wall of a high-rise apartment building, part of the Khobar Towers complex housing U.S. Air Force men and women assigned to nearby Dhahran Air Base.

Although their mission was to patrol the skies of southern Iraq and prevent Iraqi planes from threatening the peace of the Middle East, this terrorist attack was a painful demonstration and reminder of the risks Americans in uniform are faced with every day around the world.

Therefore, it is our duty to recognize the service and sacrifice of these men and women and to extend that duty upon our fellow Americans. We ask that all Americans pause and pay tribute to those 19 brave airmen and airwomen who have given their lives so that others throughout the world may live in a free and democratic society. Together, as Americans, we offer our continued sympathies to the families affected by this tragedy. We know that because their loved ones could never be replaced; we will never forget the values they so valiantly died for, nor will we stop until those who are responsible for such a heinous act are brought to justice. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to assure our servicemen and women that wherever in the world they are—we, the Members of Congress, will make them, the defenders of liberty and justice, our highest priority.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, again, I have no more speakers and I would suffice to say that we urge passage of this resolution and the fact that these nomads will forever be protecting us.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 188.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING THE MASSACRE AT SREBRENICA IN JULY 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 199) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 199

Whereas in July 1995 thousands of men and boys who had sought safety in the United Nations-designated "safe area" of Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were massacred by Serb forces operating in that country;

Whereas beginning in April 1992, aggression and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Bosnian Serb forces, while taking control of the surrounding territory, resulted in a massive influx of Bosniaks seeking protection in Srebrenica and its environs, which the United Nations Security Council designated a "safe area" in Resolution 819 on April 16, 1993;

Whereas the UNPROFOR presence in Srebrenica consisted of a Dutch peacekeeping battalion, with representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the humanitarian medical aid agency Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) helping to provide humanitarian relief to the displaced population living in conditions of massive overcrowding, destitution, and disease;

Whereas Bosnian Serb forces blockaded the enclave early in 1995, depriving the entire population of humanitarian aid and outside communication and contact, and effectively reducing the ability of the Dutch peacekeeping battalion to deter aggression or otherwise respond effectively to a deteriorating situation;

Whereas beginning on July 6, 1995, Bosnian Serb forces attacked UNPROFOR outposts, seized control of the isolated enclave, held captured Dutch soldiers hostage and, after skirmishes with local defenders, ultimately took control of the town of Srebrenica on July 11, 1995;

Whereas an estimated one-third of the population of Srebrenica, including a relatively small number of soldiers, made a desperate attempt to pass through the lines of Bosnian Serb forces to the relative safety of Bosnian-held territory, but many were killed by patrols and ambushes;

Whereas the remaining population sought protection with the Dutch peacekeeping battalion at its headquarters in the village of Potocari north of Srebrenica but many of these individuals were randomly seized by Bosnian Serb forces to be beaten, raped, or executed;

Whereas Bosnian Serb forces deported women, children, and the elderly in buses,

held Bosniak males over 16 years of age at collection points and sites in northeastern Bosnia and Herzegovina under their control, and then summarily executed and buried the captives in mass graves;

Whereas approximately 20 percent of Srebrenica's total population at the time—at least 7,000 and perhaps thousands more—was either executed or killed;

Whereas the United Nations and its member states have largely acknowledged their failure to take actions and decisions that could have deterred the assault on Srebrenica and prevented the subsequent massacre;

Whereas Bosnian Serb forces, hoping to conceal evidence of the massacre at Srebrenica, subsequently moved corpses from initial mass grave sites to many secondary sites scattered throughout parts of northeastern Bosnia and Herzegovina under their control;

Whereas the massacre at Srebrenica was among the worst of many horrible atrocities to occur in the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina from April 1992 to November 1995, during which the policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing pursued by Bosnian Serb forces with the direct support of the Serbian regime of Slobodan Milosevic and its followers ultimately led to the displacement of more than 2,000,000 people, an estimated 200,000 killed, tens of thousands raped or otherwise tortured and abused, and the innocent civilians of Sarajevo and other urban centers repeatedly subjected to shelling and sniper attacks;

Whereas Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (done at Paris on December 9, 1948, and entered into force with respect to the United States on February 23, 1989) defines genocide as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group";

Whereas on May 25, 1993, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 827 establishing the world's first international war crimes tribunal, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), based in The Hague, the Netherlands, and charging the ICTY with responsibility for investigating and prosecuting individuals suspected of committing war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions on the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991;

Whereas nineteen individuals at various levels of responsibility have been indicted, and in some cases convicted, for grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, violations of the laws or customs of war, crimes against humanity, genocide, and complicity in genocide associated with the massacre at Srebrenica, three of whom, most notably Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, remain at large; and

Whereas the international community, including the United States, has continued to provide personnel and resources, including through direct military intervention, to prevent further aggression and ethnic cleansing, to negotiate the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (initiated in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995, and signed in Paris on December 14, 1995), and to help ensure its fullest implementation, including cooperation with the