

than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Hood to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Hood and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KIDS WiSH ACT OF 2007

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would begin to address a gaping hole in our disaster management system. Since Hurricane Katrina, many improvements to our emergency management system have been made, but there is still much work to be done. Hurricane Katrina demonstrated that the current disaster management system in the United States is inadequately prepared to meet the needs of children. And there is still no national agency in the United States with a clear mandate to safeguard children before, during, and after disasters.

Children see, hear, and understand more than adults may expect. But children do not experience disasters the same way that adults do. In normal times, family, other caregivers, and community institutions like schools work together to keep children safe and help them learn and develop. During disasters, family members can be separated, schools and child care centers closed or destroyed, and children's routines disrupted. These sudden changes can frighten children. The physical differences between children and adults are clear: children are smaller and have different sleep, nutrition, and other needs. In shelters, hospitals and emergency service centers, these differences matter.

Congress must invest in creating effective local, state, and federal disaster response systems involving a healthy, adequately-funded, well-coordinated, and functional emergency medical services system. My bill, the KIDS WiSH Act, focuses on making sure the needs of children are addressed and met in emergency preparedness planning, and in response to and recovery from future domestic disasters.

The KIDS WiSH Act establishes a National Commission on Children and Disasters that is modeled after the 9/11 Commission. The Commission will examine, assess and report on the facts and causes relating to the needs of children during and after all hazards, disasters and emergencies, and Federal emergencies. It will also build upon investigations of other entities on children's needs during and after hazards, disasters, and emergencies. This would include reviewing findings, conclusions, and recommendations of other executive branch, Congressional or independent commissions, or non-governmental entities. The bill will also establish The National Resource Center on Children and Disas-

ters that would provide information to Federal, State, local and tribal governments, and non-governmental entities on issues in relation to the needs of children during and after all hazards, disasters, and emergencies.

The time to address children's needs in disasters is now . . . our Nation's children shouldn't have to wait any longer.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I join every American in remembering September 11 and the victims who so tragically lost their lives in an unspeakable act of violence. We all grieve with the families they left behind and are deeply grateful for the rescue workers and ordinary citizens that displayed extraordinary humanity and bravery.

We owe it to them to make our Nation and the world safer.

The new Democratic majority in Congress is bringing about effective change in the way our Nation confronts the threat of terror. The recent passage into law of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations was an important, though overdue, step to making our homeland more secure.

But those who lost their lives or put themselves in harm's way on 9/11 deserve more. The administration's ill-advised war in Iraq undermines a significant opportunity to bring Osama bin Laden and the real perpetrators to justice. It is my hope that we as a Congress will work together to reverse this course and refocus our efforts. We still have much work to do to recover from this tragedy, to protect our liberty, and to regain our credibility and stature in the eyes of the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during rollcall votes Nos. 865–866 on September 10, 2007. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted: On rollcall vote No. 865 I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 866 I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNITION OF CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Constitution Week, September 17–23, 2007. The Congress, by joint resolution on February 29, 1952 designated September 17 as Citizenship Day, and on August 2, 1956, requested that the President

proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as Constitution Week. During Constitution Week, we honor our Nation's Constitution and encourage everyone to take the time to read and reflect on what the Constitution means to American citizens. It is a time when we can promote the ideals of freedom and opportunity throughout our Nation.

Today, I would like to particularly recognize the Augustin Clayton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Jonesboro, GA, for observing Constitution Week this year. Their nationalism and dedication are exemplary, and a model for all Americans. I hope that many other Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, social, and educational organizations, will follow the lead of the Augustin Clayton Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution and conduct ceremonies and other programs to celebrate our Constitution this coming Constitution Week.

TAIWAN

HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian submitted an application for Taiwan's U.N. membership to the United Nations on July 19, and it was immediately rejected by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the basis of United Nations Resolution 2758, which affirmed U.N. support for the "one China" policy.

U.N.'s action regarding Taiwan's application was unprecedented and contrary to U.N. procedures. U.N. rules empower only the Security Council and the General Assembly with the authority to discuss and decide on U.N. membership applications. As such the U.N. Secretariat does not have the discretion or authority to summarily reject Taiwan's application.

Madam Speaker, I believe firmly that the issue of Taiwan's application should be raised and debated by U.N. members. And I wish to add my voice to call for U.N. to go through the necessary process for reviewing Taiwan's application for membership.

CONGRATULATING MR. MATTHEW HORNBECKER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Matthew Hornbecker of Evergreen, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon

Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Hornbecker to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Hornbecker and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the anniversary of September 11, 2001. It was a day that our enemies had hoped to show America's weakness, but instead showed our enormous strength and our enduring commitment to the values on which this Nation was founded.

The tragedies that unfolded in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania on September 11 took the lives of nearly 3000 individuals, Americans and others. These men, women, and children were killed because they lived in a country where toleration, freedom, and compassion are guiding principles. Many of those lost were brave first-responders who entered burning buildings, selflessly placing the interest of strangers above their own. All those who were killed that day left voids in the hearts of their families and communities. But their memory and spirit continue to endure in us all, and reinforce our commitment to the freedoms and ideas for which they died.

Moreover, everyday since September 11, tens of thousands of Americans work tirelessly in our communities to prevent terrorist attacks from happening again. Our hospitals, fire departments, and law enforcement officials all have redefined their mission to protect, prepare, and respond as part of the War on Terror. Meanwhile, overseas the brave members of the American military and intelligence community continue to pursue and destroy terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

Mr. Speaker, September 11 was a defining day in the history of the United States. Although we lost many great Americans, our Nation united in a cause to honor their memory and win the long-term struggle against terrorism. And in this struggle, we will win while protecting the freedom and way of life for which our enemies fight us. We continue to honor the memory of those lost and we strive to do them justice.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORTS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, it is fitting that we are pausing to honor the memory of those who died on that terrible day and to reaffirm our commitment to bring to justice those who

perpetrated these heinous acts. Today is also a time for us to remember that we can best honor those who perished by learning the right lessons from 9/11, including the heroes of United Flight 93 like Todd Beamer, whose actions that day prevented further loss of life in Washington, DC.

Over the last 6 years, we have made it harder for the reconstituted al Qaeda to mount a similar operation against the United States. And last month, the Congress passed and the President signed into law a bill (H.R. 1) that will implement the balance of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. These are tangible achievements, but we must guard against the kind of complacency and false sense of security that prevailed before the attacks on our Nation.

Because al Qaeda's leadership—Osama bin Laden and Ayman Al Zawahiri—remains at large, America is still vulnerable to future al Qaeda attacks. Moreover, our involvement in Iraq has caused us to waste lives, resources, and time that should have been spent in finding and neutralizing bin Laden and Zawahiri, and dismantling the rest of their network. We know that our involvement in Iraq has made it harder for us to rally the world in the common struggle against al Qaeda and its murderous ideology. The sooner we disengage militarily from Iraq, the sooner we will be able to refocus ourselves and our allies on the larger and far more important struggle against bin Laden and those like him.

We must also do what is necessary to care for the first responders of 9/11—those who have developed debilitating illnesses as a result of their exposure to the multiple toxins unleashed in the aftermath of the attacks. I'm hopeful that a bill to provide for the long-term monitoring of affected first responders (H. Res. 128), offered by my colleague Representative CAROLYN MALONEY of New York, will be brought to the floor of the House for a vote very soon.

Finally, we must ensure that America does whatever is necessary to take care of the men and women of our armed forces who are engaged in the hunt for our terrorist enemies. Traumatic brain injury, life-changing physical wounds, and post-traumatic stress disorder are all conditions that are affecting veterans in record numbers. I'm gratified that this Congress has provided major funding increases to deal with the needs of the veterans, but we must do more than provide one-year increases in funding—we need to structurally increase the VA health care budget to cover these injuries and their treatment throughout the expected lifetimes of these veterans. To do less dishonors them and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, as we mark this solemn day, let us remember that so long as we remain united as a people, we will weather this struggle successfully—just as we weathered the fights against fascism and communism in the last century.

HONORING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA FEDERATION OF LABOR AFL-CIO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, It is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most

devoted and proficient workers in northwest Indiana. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor AFL-CIO will recognize several individuals for their dedication during the 33rd Annual Community Awards reception to be held at the Duneland Falls Banquet Center in Chesterton, Indiana, on Friday, September 21, 2007. These individuals, in addition to the other Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals will receive special recognition. The Honorable Duane Cheney, our distinguished State representative who recently retired, is this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Cheney is being honored for his many years of service and his many contributions to the well-being of workers throughout northwest Indiana.

Mrs. Cindy Carlson, retired secretary of Sub-District 5 of District 7 for the United Steelworkers and member of Local Union #3657, will receive the Service to Labor Award for assisting organized labor to improve the quality of life for workers in northwest Indiana.

As selected by the executive board, Mr. Rudy Sutton, president of R.V. Sutton, Inc., will be presented with this year's Union Label Award for his unselfish devotion to the labor movement through all the endeavors of his company.

Mr. Jeremy Rivas of Bricklayers Local #4 will accept the Community Service Award for exemplary service to the community and the enhancement of the quality of life for all.

Mr. Joseph Kasper of Boilermakers #374 will receive the George Meany Scout Award, an honor bestowed upon him by the Boy Scouts of America.

In memoriam, the late Jim Hornak, retiree of Carpenters Local # 1046, will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The exceptional service he so generously provided to the community deserves our admiration and respect. His dedication and commitment to his community is representative of the values we cherish in northwest Indiana.

For the 2007 Business Sector Awards, Mr. Dan Sajikowski, business unit leader at the BP Refinery in Whiting, Indiana, is this year's recipient of the President's Award. The years of hard work he has put forth are a true inspiration to all. Mr. Rex Mudge, vice president of human resources for Strack & Van Til, is this year's recipient of the Retail/Wholesale Sector Award, and Arcelor Mittal USA, will be recognized with the Building Trades Sector Award. Another of our distinguished State representatives, the Honorable Charlie Brown, will be honored with this year's Service Sector Award, and Mr. Mark Oprisko, councilman for the city of Portage, will be honored with the Industrial Sector Award. Finally, Mr. Bill Kelly, president of the East Chicago Federation of Teachers #511, will be recognized for his efforts with the Public Employees Sector Award.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These individuals are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary