

slavery. He never sacrificed what he felt was important, and he dedicated his life selflessly to the greater interests of his country.

It is an honor for me to speak in support of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 2825 honoring a pioneer and a true public servant.

#### RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

#### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2007*

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember one of our Nation's darkest days, and one of its finest hours.

None of us will ever forget the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Nor will we ever forget the images of firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders placing themselves in harm's way at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. We will never forget the passengers of United Flight 93, whose heroism may well have saved the United States Capitol. We will never forget the way this Nation joined in prayer and determination in the days which followed. And we will never forget the outpouring of support from our friends throughout the world.

In my home in western North Carolina, young men and women answered the challenge of a nation thrown suddenly into war, as new volunteers signed up for the Armed Forces, and reservists and Guardsmen readied for deployment. In the six years which followed, these brave citizens and their families have sacrificed through multiple deployments and hazardous service in Afghanistan, Iraq, and throughout the world. Since that time, many have been wounded, and six young men from my district have made the ultimate sacrifice. The thoughts and prayers of a grateful nation will always be with them and their families.

In the years since that tragic September day, our Nation has stepped up its vigilance at home and abroad. I am proud of the efforts of our local law enforcement officials to improve training and expertise in our communities to identify potential threats and prevent any future attacks. I would also like to recognize all of those who stand guard in our Nation's intelligence and Federal law enforcement communities, and all Americans serving abroad to reduce the conditions that breed terrorism and to increase hope in distant lands.

This Congress has taken the important steps of implementing the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission and enhancing homeland security efforts, however there is still work to be done. Our ports remain vulnerable, and our borders remain porous. Hurricane Katrina exposed serious problems with our Nation's disaster response mechanisms, and it is unclear how far we have come in fixing those problems. I am committed to working with my colleagues to address these problems and ensure the safety of all Americans.

So today we remember, as we look forward. I join with all my colleagues in today in honoring the memory of those who lost their lives on September 11th, remembering those who have sacrificed defending our Nation since

that day, and praying for those who continue to serve our Nation today.

#### RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

#### HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2007*

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sorrow to the families and friends of the nearly 3,000 men and women who perished in the terrorist attacks on September 11th 2001. On this day six years ago, our great country was attacked. Yet, the terrorists were not seeking our money or our land. They were out to destroy what we stand for: freedom, democracy, and the American dream. It seems we have come a long way since that dreadful September morning; yet, on a daily basis, we live with the memory of all those who passed away.

Today, Americans remember the courage and bravery we witnessed from the countless civilians, police officers and firefighters who fought the terrorists and ran into the destroyed buildings while many others would have run from them. We will never forget these heroes for giving their lives so they may save the lives of others and the freedom of all.

I join my fellow Members of Congress, not as a Republican or a Democrat, but as a proud American, in expressing our sincere gratitude to those who showed us the true spirit of our Nation.

May God bless them and continue to bless our men and women overseas who fight for the principles we stood for.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. DAVID JOHNSON

#### 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. David Johnson of Aurora, 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. Johnson 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. Johnson and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 11, 2007*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, due to illness I missed the two votes on Monday, September 10, 2007. I would have voted as follows: Passage of H. Res. 257, supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month—"yes"; Passage of H. Res. 643, 9/11 Commemoration—"yes."

#### SUPPORT FOR ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

#### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 11, 2007*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of H. Res. 106, the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

It is long past time for the United States to officially recognize the massacre of one and a half million Armenians early in the 20th century for what it undeniably was: genocide.

Year, after year, after year, I've been proud to cosponsor the Armenian Genocide resolution. Last year, over 150 House members cosponsored this important legislation to properly recognize the Armenian Genocide. This year, the resolution has already received 226 cosponsorships, a majority of the Members of the House. This impressive number reflects the broad bipartisan support for an official recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Countries all around the world have adopted similar resolutions to ensure that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people are properly recognized as acts of Genocide. Canada, France, Switzerland, Greece, and Poland all have passed resolutions affirming the recognition of the Genocide. Properly recognizing the Armenian Genocide here in America is essential to ensure that all past genocides are never forgotten and all future atrocities are never permitted.

The writer Milan Kundera once wrote that "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."

There are those that would deny the Armenian Genocide, just as there are those that deny the reality of the Nazi Holocaust. In commemorating the Armenian Genocide as we will do with this Resolution, we collectively engage in that struggle of memory against forgetting. The dangers of forgetting are real—as Adolph Hitler plotted the Holocaust, he was emboldened by the failure of the international community to note the first genocide of the 20th century, writing in 1939 "Who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?" But this resolution is not just intended as a remembrance of a dark past, but as a way of animating future policies with a commitment to prevent such things from ever happening again, as well as a step towards building a better future for the Armenian people and for all people.

I commend Representative SCHIFF for introducing this critical resolution, and again commit myself to work for its timely adoption.

RECOGNITION OF MS. SMITA N. SHAH, P.E.

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 11, 2007*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Smita N. Shah, P.E., a prominent Indian-American businesswoman, activist, and philanthropist, who was one of a select few to receive the prestigious 2007 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Over the years, I have had the honor to befriend this young woman and seen firsthand her good works and intelligence that makes her so worthy of this award.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor award is presented to influential leaders of various fields and ethnic backgrounds who have greatly contributed to American society. Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, NECO, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to the heritage of those individuals that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic and extraordinary individual achievement. Past medalists include six U.S. Presidents as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports and government.

As the daughter of two immigrants from India, Ms. Shah grew up in Chicago where she excelled as a student and is still remembered fondly as an active member of her community. Through her constant study and hard work she earned an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. Ms. Shah continued her education when she received a masters of science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and completed an advanced management program at Oxford. Upon completion of school, she started her own engineering firm. Though the firm started off with just 3 employees, it has since expanded to 55 in just 9 years.

Ms. Shah has also set herself apart through her commitment to public service, which started with an internship in the Office of the Chief of Staff to the President of the United States in the summer of 1994 and continued with her service as a member of the White House advance team from 1993 to 2001. She went on

to become a member of the White House Millennium Council to Save America's Treasures from 1998 to 2001. In 1996, she was the youngest delegate to the Democratic National Committee, DNC, from the State of Illinois and participated in the 2004 DNC as well.

In Chicago, because of her strong belief in community building, Ms. Shah goes out of her way to work with organizations that help to promote ethnic diversity. She serves as chair of the Delhi-Chicago Committee, a part of the city of Chicago's Sister Cities International Program, where she works to expand relations between Chicago and New Delhi, helping to preserve and encourage her own cultural ties to India. In 2004, Senator BARBARA BOXER presented Ms. Shah with a Women Making History Award for her dedication to her community, to her culture, and to the preservation of American ideals.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Shah is an asset to the United States and her efforts are deserving of this prestigious award. Ms. Shah fully embodies the commitment and values that the Ellis Island Medal of Honor represents. It is an honor for me to recognize this great American and a good friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 11, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ. Madam Speaker, on Friday, September 7, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 861: "yes" on agreeing to the resolution.

(2) Rollcall No. 864: "yes" on agreeing to the conference report.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REPORTING

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 11, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on September 10, 2007, I was granted a leave of absence to attend to personal business. In error, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reported that I was granted a leave of absence from September 10, 2007 through September 21, 2007. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD should have reported September 10, 2007 as my only day of leave.

CONGRATULATING MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON

**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. William Johnson of Littleton, 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. Johnson 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. Johnson and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.