

support of my colleagues for that funding, we have had some key successes. But this is simply no longer a tenable course of action.

Passage of the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act would mark an end to this unpredictable approach and ensure that a consistent source of funding is available to monitor, and if necessary, treat, the thousands of first responders, community members, and others already affected by WTC-related illnesses as well as those who are most likely to become sick in the future. And it would make sure that no matter where an affected individual were to live in the future, he or she could get care. Building on the expertise of the existing Centers of Excellence, the bill would fill key gaps in how we are currently providing treatment and monitoring. And finally, this legislation would provide an opportunity for compensation for economic damages and losses by reopening the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

On this anniversary of one of the most devastating days in our national consciousness, I thank members of Congress and the American people for coming to our aid after September 11th and in the years that followed. And once again, I implore you to pass the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH RESOLUTION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the National Preparedness Month Resolution, which recognizes that the month of September is designated as National Preparedness Month. This measure applauds the public servants at Department of Homeland Security for their outstanding contributions to our Nation's homeland security and encourages citizens around the world to continue to prepare themselves and their families for acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

It has been 7 years since the horrific terrorist attacks against the United States and its people on September 11, 2001. Our Nation continues to heal from the terrible losses that we suffered and our Government remains vigilant against those who attacked us.

Yet, while our Nation is fortunate that law enforcement agents and emergency response providers have successfully worked hard to prevent any further attacks, we are still vulnerable. We know that precious lives and critical infrastructure continue to be targeted across the world as evidenced by various suicide bombings in recent years. Terrorism remains prevalent and we must always be prepared both at home and abroad.

I am pleased to have so many members serving as cosponsors to this bill. As we all know, preparedness is not a partisan matter—terrorists do not select their victims by political party. Therefore, we must all support the message that families be prepared for emergencies should they occur.

If a disaster—whether large or small—occurs in a community, local responders and disaster-relief organizations will be there to help, but citizens need to be ready as well. That is why the Department of Homeland Security has

designated the month of September each year as National Preparedness Month. The Department and its key stakeholders will spend the month promoting the importance of being prepared and, most importantly, how to be prepared in our communities across the country. As we all know, when individual citizens, families and communities are prepared, the fear, anxiety, and loss that accompany disasters is substantially minimized.

It is imperative that citizens know what to do in the event of an emergency and be ready either to shelter in place or to evacuate their homes. People must be ready to care for their basic needs for a minimum of 72 hours should they be displaced for a period of time.

And as our Nation continues to glean lessons from catastrophic events such as the September 11th terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Government must ensure that preparedness efforts help our Nation's most vulnerable populations. Recent wildfires, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes have given us the opportunity to observe whether those lessons have since been corrected.

In closing, let me say that I applaud the hard work and dedication of the public servants within the Department of Homeland Security in their effort to protect our Nation. Further, I encourage our citizens to make sure their families are vigilant, alert, and prepared for emergencies, and recommend visiting the Web site www.ready.gov, which might greatly assist them in this process. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE MICHIGAN COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND, FLINT OFFICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Michigan Commission for the Blind, Flint Office for celebrating 30 years of service to the blind and visually impaired. The office will gather to commemorate this anniversary at a party on October 30th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

The Michigan Commission for the Blind was created by Public Act 260 of 1978. The Commission operates its central office in Lansing, 8 field offices and a training center in Kalamazoo. As one of the field offices, the Flint Office provides service to clients throughout the Flint and Thumb areas of Michigan.

In carrying out their mission, the Michigan Commission for the Blind provides in-home services, mini-adjustment seminars, business services for employers, a vocational rehabilitation program, independent living for seniors over the age of 55, deafblind services, youth services and the business enterprise program. Their motto is "Changing Lives, Changing Attitudes" and their goals are for the blind and visually impaired to lead productive, independent lives as well as educating the general population about the capabilities of the blind.

The Flint Office plays an integral part in providing service and education to the community. For the past 30 years the 7 person staff has been committed to promoting the welfare

and ability of the visually impaired so they can live and function in our society and in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to congratulate the employees, volunteers and clients of the Michigan Commission for the Blind, Flint Office as they celebrate 30 years of assistance to the blind and visually impaired of mid-Michigan. May they continue their service for many, many years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. NORMAN L. MEBANE, JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, Mr. Norman L. Mebane Jr., was born in Merry Hill, North Carolina. He graduated from high school in Bertie County before earning an associate's degree from Pitt Community College. After 2 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Mebane returned home and worked at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company.

He attended Thomas Nelson Community College, and then earned a bachelor of science degree from St. Augustine's College where he was also inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society and received special recognition as a Presidential Scholar.

Mr. Mebane then worked as a crop and livestock farmer before moving on to the trucking business. He founded N.L. Mebane Trucking Company, Inc. and later founded Mebane Rural Initiative Institute, Inc. and Mebane Investment Properties LLC. His entrepreneurial successes were recognized by North Carolina Department of Transportation with the Minority Business Enterprise Award of the Year.

Mr. Mebane currently serves on the RBC Centura Bank Region II Advisory Board and the Economic Development Council, and he previously served as part of the Historical Hope Foundation, Transportation Development Council, North Carolina Governor's Conference on Small Business and the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Minority Business Expansion Council. Mr. Mebane also serves as a board trustee for Elizabeth City State University and Martin County Community College.

It is certainly fitting that Elizabeth City State University would honor Mr. Mebane because he fully understands the importance of community involvement and he truly dedicates himself to serving others. He is an outstanding member of our community who deserves our highest thanks and praise.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great North Carolinian and American, Mr. Norman L. Mebane, Jr.

MOVING FORWARD FROM 9/11

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, America must move from the errant, retributive justice

of 9/11 to a healing, restorative process of truth and reconciliation.

Before the Congress adjourns, I will bring forth a new proposal for the establishment of a National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation, which will have the power to compel testimony and gather official documents to reveal to the American people not only the underlying deception which has divided us, but in that process of truth seeking set our Nation on a path of reconciliation.

We suffer in our remembrance of 9/11, because of the terrible loss of innocent lives on that grim day. We also suffer because 9/11 was seized as an opportunity to run a political agenda, which has set America on a course of the destruction of another nation and the destruction of our own Constitution. And we have become less secure as a result of the warped practice of pursuing peace through the exercise of preemptive military strength.

It is not simply 9/11 that needs to be remembered. We also need to remember the politicization of 9/11 and the polarizing narrative which followed, locking us into endless conflict, a war on terror which has wrought further terror worldwide and which has severely damaged our standing worldwide as an honorable, compassionate nation. As we were all victims of 9/11, so we have become victims of the interpretation of 9/11.

Our government's external response to 9/11 was to attack a nation which did not attack us. Indeed on the first anniversary of 9/11, the Bush administration issued a well-publicized stern warning to Iraq which was part of a campaign to induce people to believe Iraq had something to do with 9/11.

The deliberate, systematic connection of Iraq with 9/11 has led America into a philosophical and moral cul-de-sac as over one million Iraqis and over 4155 U.S. soldiers have died in a war which will cost over \$3 trillion. Additionally, soldiers from 23 other countries have died in the Iraq war.

We attempt to unite Iraq by further dividing it. We talk about restoring Iraq while taking steps to place control of its vast oil wealth in the hands of U.S. oil giants. And we intend to impose upon the Iraqi people the cost of rebuilding a country which our government ruined, keeping a once prosperous nation lashed to debt and poverty for a long, long time. Iraq has paid for 9/11. We all continue to pay for 9/11.

The heartbreaking loss of the lives and injuries to America troops further binds us to the Administration's illogic of the Iraq war: We remember our troops' sacrifice by demanding more sacrifice; we support our troops by continuing the war.

The dominant color of our new national security since 9/11 is neither red, white nor blue. Every day is orange. Everyday reminders of fear of 9/11 become banal. Yet we no longer hear the airport announcements nor see the orange-colored warnings because they have commonplace standards in our new national security state, as is the PATRIOT Act, wire-tapping, and a host of invasions of privacy and diminution of civil liberties. The Constitution has been roundly attacked by the very people who took an oath to defend it.

There is a powerful desire across America for change, not necessarily from control by one political party to another, but a change from living with lies to living with truth.

Over two dozen nations, facing peril within and without, deeply divided by politics and war

have travelled down a path of restoring civil society through a formal process of reconciliation. At some point within each of those countries it was understood that the way forward is shown through the light of truth. This process is not without pain because it requires a willingness to study evidence to which eyes had been averted and ears had been closed. But in the process of truth and reconciliation, nations found new strength, new resolve, and new commitment.

The South African Truth and Reconciliation enabled that nation to come to grips with its past through a public confessional, bringing forward those who committed crimes and having the power to grant amnesty for full disclosure of crimes against the people. Of course, our path may necessarily be different: High U.S. government officials stand accused in impeachment petitions of violating national and international law. Our continued existence as a democracy may depend upon how thoroughly we seek the truth. I will call upon the American people to join me in supporting this effort.

The truth can move us forward, as a unified whole, so that we can one day become a re-United States. September 11 is the day the world changed. It is the day America embraced a metaphor of war. If we are open to truth and reconciliation, we may one day be able, once again, to embrace peace.

HONORING MARY HIGLEY'S 110TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary Higley, a Southeastern Pennsylvania resident who recently reached a very special milestone.

Mary celebrated her 110th birthday on Aug. 10, 2008 during a ceremony with her fellow residents at Meadowood Retirement Community in Worcester Township, Montgomery County.

Mary was born in Burrville, Rhode Island in 1898. She was the first of five children in her family. She pursued a career in the sciences after graduating from Mount Holyoke College with a degree in biology. Mary worked as a Bacteriologist for the State of Rhode Island in the Public Health Department testing water systems until she married. She and her late husband have three children, two boys and one daughter who lives nearby in North Wales, Pennsylvania.

Mary stays active at Meadowood, rising each morning at exactly 6 A.M. She is an avid reader and enjoys walks through the gardens. Known for her jigsaw puzzles, she always has one in the works in her room. Mary has been a resident at Meadowood since 1996 and continues a very busy and stimulating life there.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Mary Higley a very happy 110th birthday. She is an inspiration to all.

IN MEMORY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like submit the following editorial published today in the Times and Democrat newspaper of Orangeburg, South Carolina on September 11, 2008. It eloquently conveys the dedication we all feel on this seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th. I appreciate their sentiment, and believe that we must never forget those who lost their lives on that terrible day, never forget the enemy we face, and never lose faith that our nation will prevail in this Global War on Terrorism.

SEVEN YEARS LATER: "WE WILL NOT FORGET"

Today is Sept. 11, 2008, seven years after the worst attack against America in its history. Second District Congressman JOE WILSON has since that day made a point of referencing remembering 9-11 in every speech before lawmakers. He's offered more than words, too, with his children serving in the war on terrorism and the congressman being an active supporter of the war and the military waging it.

The Times and Democrat's continuing series of memorial posters today focuses on 9-11. "We will not forget." The message has not changed.

Innocent people in the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon, and aboard an airliner in Pennsylvania, died when terrorists brought their hatred for our nation and its people to our shores. The images of airliners crashing into the very symbols of our Nation are forever etched into Americans' minds.

On this anniversary date, our Nation remains under attack. We continue to be the target of terrorists, either directly or through attacks on our allies. Extremists contending they are acting in the name of Islam continually vow to punish our nation for its perceived evil role around the world.

Defeating the threat, on the surface, appears impossible. We cannot score definitive military victories against forces that are committed only to recruiting soldiers to die while killing as many Americans as possible. There seemingly always will be another recruit.

Our forces fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan face constant threats. Our enemies boast of killing the American invaders who have come to seize holy lands. Thousands have died. Their deaths must not be in vain. The sacrifices of the thousands on Sept. 11, 2001, must not be forgotten. Our nation will stand tall, we will determine where and how to continue the fight against terrorism. Just as older generations passed the test in World War II and wars before, the generations of our time are facing their tests. We cannot afford to fail.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was delayed in reaching the floor yesterday and missed rollcall vote No. 581. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."