

we'll have an opening up of the Outer Continental Shelf, not just in this energy bill that should come to the floor next week, but also in stopping the prohibition on the continuing resolution. That will bring the opportunity of more supply of oil and gas to our country, a much-needed benefit.

I know we all focus on crude oil a lot, but an all-of-the-above energy strategy would also address coal. There's two provisions, Congressman Boucher/Shimkus coal-to-liquid bill, which would help incentivize coal being turned into liquid fuel. That would help decrease our reliance on imported crude oil, make our country safer.

The Department of Defense wants long-term contracting so that we can incentivize coal-to-liquid refineries. That would also help. An all-of-the-above strategy would not forget coal.

OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, this is a day to remember those who died in the attacks on American soil 7 years ago. Since that day, this Nation's security has been the highest priority on both sides of the aisle. We may not all agree, we may not often agree, but we do love this country, and we want to do everything we can to ensure its security.

I stand today because this occasion is a necessary time to think about the ways we get our energy. Energy is a huge part of our national security. Having domestic energy sources will help secure this Nation.

It's safe to say that no one in this Chamber thinks that relying on foreign oil is a good long-term strategy for this Nation. It's not good for our economy, and it's not good for our security.

I also think both sides generally agree that using alternative sources of energy are essential to our Nation's future. What we seem to disagree on is a matter of logistics. How quickly can we develop reliable cars that use other forms of energy besides oil? How can we make solar and wind power more available to power individual homes? The truth of the matter is, such solutions are not immediately available.

In the meantime, Americans still need to drive to work. They still need to buy groceries. They still need to heat their homes. We need to respond to the reality of our situation. While we continue to develop alternative energies, we need to increase our supply of the energy this Nation relies on. We have the resources. We have the technology to get them in an environmentally friendly way. Let's help out the American people who are looking to us for solutions.

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY BILL

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, almost 6 weeks ago this House adjourned for a 5-week paid vacation. A year and a half had passed, and the Democrat leadership remained, up to that moment, steadfast on one issue and one issue only—there would never be a vote on the House floor that gave the American people more access to American oil through domestic drilling.

House Republicans refused to go quietly. We held this floor for 5 weeks, demanding that, in the wake of this 21st-century energy crisis, Congress come together in a bipartisan way and develop a comprehensive energy bill that said yes to conservation, yes to alternative sources of energy, and yes to more domestic drilling. And now, although we don't have the language yet, there is word that there is a Democrat bill coming to the floor that includes more domestic drilling.

I rise to commend my Republican colleagues who fought for the right of the American people to debate, having access to their own resources, and I say to my colleagues, bring your bill to the floor. We'll bring our bill to the floor. Make it an open debate. Let us cast the votes, and let us lay forward a blueprint for energy independence in the 21st century as the bipartisan accomplishment of this Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 29 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1333

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 1 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1426

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.—Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AS ADOPTED MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to suspend the rules relating to the following measures be considered as adopted in the form considered by the House on Tuesday, September 9, 2008: House Resolution 1207, H.R. 6169, and H.R. 6513.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, sundry motions to reconsider are laid on the table.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1420) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1420

Whereas on the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and a third into the Pentagon outside Washington, DC;

Whereas the passengers and crew aboard United Flight 93 acted heroically to prevent the terrorist hijackers from taking additional American lives, by crashing the plane in Shanksville, Pennsylvania and sacrificing their own lives instead;

Whereas thousands of innocent men, women, and children were brutally murdered in the attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas 7 years later, the United States still mourns their loss and honors their memory;

Whereas by targeting symbols of American strength and prosperity, the attacks were intended to assail the principles and values of the American people, to intimidate the Nation and its allies, and to weaken the national resolve;

Whereas the United States remains steadfast in its determination to defeat, disrupt, and destroy terrorist organizations and

seeks to harness all elements of national power, including its military, economic, and diplomatic resources, to do so;

Whereas Congress passed and the President signed numerous laws to assist victims of terrorism, protect our Nation, combat terrorism at home and abroad, and support, in the field and upon return, the members of the Armed Forces who courageously defend the United States;

Whereas the terrorist attacks that have occurred around the world since September 11, 2001, remind us all of the hateful inhumanity of terrorism and the ongoing threat it poses to freedom, justice, and the rule of law;

Whereas the United States has worked cooperatively with the nations of the free world to capture and punish terrorists and remains committed to building strong and effective counterterrorism alliances;

Whereas immediately following September 11, 2001, the United States Armed Forces moved swiftly against al-Qaeda and the Taliban, which the President and Congress had identified as enemies of the United States;

Whereas in doing so, brave servicemen and women left loved ones in order to defend the Nation; and

Whereas 7 years later, many servicemen and women remain abroad, defending the Nation from further terrorist attacks and continuing to battle al-Qaeda and the Taliban: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes September 11 as a day of solemn commemoration;

(2) extends its deepest condolences again to the friends, families, and loved ones of the innocent victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

(3) honors the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of first responders, law enforcement personnel, State and local officials, volunteers, and others who aided the innocent victims and, in so doing, bravely risked and often sacrificed their own lives;

(4) expresses gratitude to the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have assisted and continue to stand in solidarity with the United States against terrorism in the aftermath of the attacks;

(5) asserts in the strongest possible terms that the war on terrorists and terrorism is not a war on any nation, any people, or any faith;

(6) recognizes the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of United States personnel, including members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States intelligence agencies, the United States diplomatic service, and their families, who have sacrificed much, including their lives and health, in defense of their country against terrorists and their supporters;

(7) vows that it will continue to take whatever actions are appropriate to identify, intercept, and defeat terrorists, including providing the United States Armed Forces, the United States intelligence agencies, and the United States diplomatic service with the resources and support to effectively and safely accomplish this mission; and

(8) reaffirms that the American people will never forget the sacrifices made on and since September 11, 2001, and will defeat those who attacked our Nation through our shared determination, spirit, and embrace of democratic values.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the 20 minutes accorded to me be managed by Mr. ACKERMAN of New York.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield to the majority leader, Mr. HOYER, 1 minute.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman from New York, and I thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for bringing this to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on this resolution not as a Democrat but as an American.

September 11 is seared into my memory just as December 7 was for an earlier generation. Indeed, I know it is seared in the memory of every American.

It was a day of horror and of heroism, and each year it will be a day for us to renew our devotion to the ideals that make our Nation what it is, ideals of liberty, tolerance, equality, and the rule of law.

On this seventh anniversary, this resolution introduced by myself and the Republican leader, Mr. BOEHNER, recognizes September 11 as a day of remembrance and resolve. We mourn nearly 3,000 men, women, and children murdered. We pledge to keep their names alive and their memories fresh, and we pledge ourselves, once again, to those who loved and lost them.

And we recall the heroism of this day, the light of courage that shines brightest in the darkest hours. We remember the service and sacrifice of our first responders, firemen, policemen, medical personnel, average citizens; 343 firefighters, 37 Port Authority officers, 23 police officers. They served us unto death and they died in service.

We remember the heroic passengers of United Flight 93, ordinary Americans who found in themselves unthinkable reserves of heroism and saved the building in which we stand at the cost of their lives.

The Capitol's dome rises on this hill as a symbol of freedom and liberty and democracy. Surely that was the target of those terrorists, and they would have succeeded save for the extraordinary courage of the passengers of that flight.

We send our thoughts far away as well from this Chamber where our servicemen and women are serving and fighting in harm's way as we speak.

Inspired by each and every one of those sacrifices, let us renew our resolve. We commit ourselves to defending our people against any and all future threats. We remain steadfast in our commitment to disrupt, dismantle, defeat, and destroy terrorist networks that endanger all that we hold dear. We will devote to that cause all of our military might, all of our diplomatic skill, and all our moral force.

Americans have worked tirelessly to make our Nation safer. This Congress has passed, and the President signed, numerous laws to assist victims, combat terrorism, protect our homeland, and to support the members of our Armed Forces who defend our interests at home and around the world.

Most importantly of all, we adopted last year all of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. And now we must implement them.

We must keep working to keep America secure. We can always do more. And, as the chairman of the 9/11 Commission pointed out, we are not yet strong enough. Today is a reminder that in this uncertain century, even the most powerful Nation on Earth is vulnerable.

So let us add humility and watchfulness to our mourning because we are defending something greater and more powerful than our own lives. We are defending the same ideals to which our founders pledged more than two centuries ago, their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

We are defending the American ideals that stretch through our history and animate our spirit even today. And no attack, no attack, can break them.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join with Mr. BOEHNER and me in unanimously supporting this resolution of remembrance and resolve.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It has been 7 years since the unimaginable happened, unimaginable, but nevertheless all too real.

It is difficult to believe that the months and the years have passed so quickly for some, so slowly for others. But although the passage of time cannot erase the scars, it often shows mercy by soothing the raw wounds of experience and transforming them into memory. And that is our purpose here today, Madam Speaker, to remember, to remember the victims and to remind ourselves of the hatred that fuels the enemies of freedom and their desire to destroy us, to destroy our homeland, to destroy everything that we represent.

Every American and millions around the globe remember that day, remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news and turned on their televisions. They remember the numbing shock and the horror of that day. All wanted to do something to help, and yet there seemed at that time to be so little that could be done to relieve the suffering and the fear.

Thank God that there were men and women in a position to help and who did so at great risk and at great cost to themselves. We honor those individuals for their bravery, none of whom sought fame, many of whom lost their lives so that others might live.

But while it is appropriate that we remember the events of that day, that we mourn those whom we lost and celebrate the many heroes, our attention should not be fixed entirely on the past for the attack on us was not a single blow but the declaration of a war.

We suddenly learned that this war had already been fought against us for many years and in many places, but we had not recognized it for what it was. We had the taking of our embassy and Americans hostages in Iran in 1979, the bombing of our embassy compound and the Marine attacks in Beirut in the early 1980s, the first World Trade Center bombing by Islamic terrorists in 1993, and the attack on the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, the USS *Cole*, and our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, also in the 1990s.

The goal of our self-proclaimed enemies is not to defeat us but to destroy us. For they must destroy us if they are to destroy the civilization we represent which they have defined as their ultimate aim. Their fantasies cannot be made true as long as we exist to stop them.

This is a new type of war, Madam Speaker, which presents unfamiliar challenges, and it will test us in ways for which the methods of the past have only a limited use.

Securing victory will task our mental and material resources and will require innovative approaches and unconventional solutions. But our courage, our steadfastness, our determination will be as greatly challenged.

In the 7 years since we were attacked, we have come to know our enemies, we have come to know their plans and their methods of operation.

□ 1345

As we see them more clearly, we are increasingly able to uncover their networks and locate their hiding places. But we should not expect an easy success. Our enemies have many allies and have sunk deep roots that will not easily be torn out.

Even as I speak, our warriors are fighting for us and for our country far away from their homes. I am proud that my stepson and my daughter-in-law are two of those warriors who served in Iraq and Lindsey in Afghanistan as well.

We pray for the success of all of our personnel in harm's way, knowing that victory will not be achieved in one decisive battle but in many small ones and fought in many ways and in many places around the globe.

Let us remember this as we prepare our defenses and make our plans to seek out and destroy those who would destroy us.

We must not deceive ourselves with the hope that this threat will just go

away, that our enemies will tire of the battle, that they will experience a change of heart, and that they will renounce the evil that they have committed, and instead, we know that they will eagerly plan to do so again.

We must remember that we cannot hide, that we must not fall prey to the easy belief that there are easy solutions because, in fact, there are none.

But there is no room for despair, Madam Speaker. For more than two centuries, our country has risen to meet the challenges that at the time seemed impossible, when the odds against us seemed to be too great, and the path to victory seemed difficult to see. But we have always prevailed.

So on this day of remembrance, Madam Speaker, let us reflect upon all those whom we have lost, on all those who guard us still today, and on the task remaining for all of us, and pledge to do our duty as have all the generations that have preceded us.

God bless the United States of America, now and always.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution pays homage to the lives lost on the 11th of September in 2001 and recognizes this anniversary as a time of solemn commemoration. It extends deepest condolences to the friends, families and loved ones of the innocent victims of the terrorist attacks; it expresses gratitude to the leaders and citizens of other countries who assisted, supported, and stood by the United States in the aftermath of the attacks; and it honors the Nation's first responders, Armed Forces and others whose valiant efforts are a credit to their country and who continue to keep us safe.

Each of us remembers exactly where we were on 9/11 when we heard the tragic news. We remember the days of unity that followed when we acted together to protect this country from those determined to harm us and undermine our way of life.

Last year, we took a major step in furtherance of that goal by enacting, with bipartisan support, legislation to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, in both its domestic and foreign policy dimensions. By doing so, we addressed major security vulnerabilities and improved our homeland security across the board. I call on the President to continue his work to fully implement that act.

Al Qaeda remains a serious threat to the United States. In particular, the al Qaeda leadership that was responsible for ordering the attacks on September 11 has been reconstituted in the tribal areas of Pakistan. From that safe haven, they continue to pose danger to the world and increasingly threaten American troops in Afghanistan.

And this is more than just a military campaign. In the battle against ex-

tremists, ideas matter as much as ammunition, and this Nation must employ its soft power—its moral, economic, financial, diplomatic and cultural resources—to the very fullest.

The global realities of the 21st century require us to use the full range of nonmilitary tools as a fundamental pillar of our national security. We in Congress must support full funding for our international affairs programs. They bolster our national security by allowing us to work with foreign partners to track down terrorists overseas, to secure dangerous weapons wherever they are found, and to help stabilize fragile states.

Madam Speaker, this country is in the midst of a competitive election campaign. The stakes could not be higher. But today we set aside all of that to remember what unites us is greater than that which divides us. We all love our country and seek to keep it safe in these perilous times.

Madam Speaker, none of us will forget what happened 7 years ago today. We will always remember the victims of 9/11 and the loved ones who survived them. We still have unfinished work. Congress still needs to act, and hopefully soon, to provide the care to the people who rushed to Ground Zero to help others, as well as the thousands who worked on the "pile" in the aftermath to rebuild the site.

We owe those heroes of 9/11 the care and compensation they deserve. We will always honor the first responders who lost their lives that day—and those in uniform who risk their lives today and every day to defend America.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia, the ranking member on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Mr. DAVIS, who lost many friends and constituents at the Pentagon on that fateful day 7 years ago.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. I thank my friend for yielding.

The passage of time should bring perspective, a clarity of thought and vision only possible from a distance. Seven years after this Nation was savagely attacked by terrorists, we have to ask: What should we discern today looking back at those events, and what lessons are the silenced voices of the dead still urging us to heed?

But grief numbs the painful past, and complacency can obscure our view of future perils. We pause to mourn, to remember, to pay homage to those lost, not out of ritual obligation, but in solemn self-interest. We invoke the cherished memories of the victims of September 11, 2001, to rekindle the timeless flame of vigilance in the living. If we forget those lost, more will perish.

Today, the Pentagon memorial to 9/11's heroes is being dedicated. A permanent shrine to the 184 people who gave their lives there 7 years ago, it stands

as a serene reminder of their sacrifice. It should inspire us, in their memory, to honor all those who fight to defend America and advance freedom every day.

Our remembrance of the past should also light the path through present challenges. Seven years ago, the price of a barrel of oil was \$20. Today, it's over \$100. Dependence on foreign energy sources adds to the vulnerabilities exploited seven Septembers ago and constrains our options in trying to make America and the world more secure. Honoring the sacrifices of 9/11 today calls us all to put aside personal convenience and political bias in the struggle against global carbon addiction.

Our attention span can be short. In the age of the 24/7 cable news cycle, 7 years is an eternity. But to those who attacked us, it's just seven grains of sand in the arid desert of their malevolent thousand-year campaign of horror. Each September 11 should remind us of the brevity of our time here, the preciousness of each life, and the urgency of the challenges we still face.

A great American author said, "There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than 10,000 tongues. They are messengers of overwhelming grief and unspeakable love." Today's tears convey messages of grief and love to those lost 7 years ago in New York City, Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon.

I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize now for 3 minutes the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I thank my friend from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) for yielding to me.

I speak obviously as an American, but I also speak as a New Yorker. And, Madam Speaker, there isn't a New Yorker alive, as there isn't an American alive, whose life was not changed as a result of what happened 7 years ago today on September 11, 2001. I lost many constituents in the attack on the World Trade Center, lost many friends, and even today, every week when I fly back into New York and I look at the landscape of New York City, I always imagine where the Twin Towers would be and know that the landscape has changed forever.

But even more importantly than the landscape, it's what was done to all of us as Americans on that day. I think we lost our innocence that day. I think the feeling that somehow or other we could never be attacked because we had the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans protecting us went out the window, and we realized that we were as vulnerable as anyone else.

The evil people who forced the planes to fly into the World Trade Center have

many friends who are still around and would still do us harm, and we as a Nation have to be resolved, to be prepared to fight against terrorism, yes, conduct the war on terror. I know some don't like that phrase, but there is a war on terror, and we have to make sure that we do everything possible to win that war on terror.

As was mentioned before, we all remember where we were that day when we first heard the news. We all remember how we felt, and I remember a day or two after the carnage going down there, looking around, and standing in disbelief and saying I can't believe that this is New York, I can't believe that what I'm seeing isn't just a dream, I can't believe that I'm not going to pinch myself and wake up.

Let me say that we still have a fight on our hands. It's also a fight to honor our first responders, to say thank you continuously to those who protect us, and to remind ourselves that there are literally thousands upon thousands of New Yorkers and people in other States who came down in the aftermath of the World Trade Center catastrophe and helped people. And those people, as a result, have difficulty and health problems today, and we as a Nation must continue to make sure that these people are protected and taken care of and not turn the other way and look the other way.

Right now, the New York delegation is fighting to make sure that the first responders and others who helped people and who became sick as a result are not turned away and that we are taking care of them, and let us resolve to continue to do that and more in the aftermath of September 11.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I think that the Congress unanimously should speak with one voice and say, Never Again.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health of our Foreign Affairs Committee, who knows the personal suffering of 9/11 as he represents family members of the victims and lost over 50 fellow citizens from his congressional district when the World Trade Center towers were hit.

□ 1400

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend, the distinguished ranking member, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for yielding. And Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution.

Despite the passage of 7 years, Madam Speaker, the scars from the attack on our country on September 11, 2001 remain. They remain from the loss of the lives of nearly 3,000 innocent men, women and children, including over 50 men and women from my own district, the 4th District of New Jersey.

Over the course of these several years—as a matter of fact, almost right

away—I got to know several of the widows and the loved ones and was so moved and so impressed by their love for the victims. Their loss was—is—excruciatingly painful. But the families also had a great sense that we needed to do more to ensure that this never happens again. And whether it be the "Jersey Girls" who walked the halls of this Congress, strongly advocating for the establishment of the 9/11 Commission, or the others—I even actually hired one of the individuals who lost a loved one in my office to do case work. And her sensitivity and her sense of concern for those who suffered irreparable loss that day has been inspiring to me as it has been to members of our delegation in New Jersey and so many others as well.

The scars remain, obviously, Madam Speaker, in the painful void in the lives of the families who sought in vain to make some sense of their horrific and tragic loss. And the scars remain embedded in the fabric of our society, which has had to learn to cope with the reality of a world where indiscriminate large-scale attacks on human life are a constant threat.

Madam Speaker, while recognizing the extraordinary efforts and courage of America's first responders—the firefighters, police officers, emergency response personnel, the heroes—it was also apparent from the terrorist attacks that our Nation had much to learn. We had to craft policies to better protect our people.

I was one of those, among so many others, who advocated early and consistently for a commission to chronicle the facts, missteps and opportunities lost leading up to the tragedy and to develop a well-informed, thoughtful strategy to reduce the future risk of an attack. The 9/11 Commission—that was chaired so ably by Governor Tom Kean, the former Governor of New Jersey, and former chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Lee Hamilton—issued an historic, incisive report, a comprehensive report which, together with subsequent legislation, was not only thoroughly examined by House and Senate committees, but virtually all of the recommendations were enacted into law. The whole thrust, post 9/11, Madam Speaker, is to mitigate and, God willing, prevent such a tragedy from ever occurring again.

Madam Speaker, we must be diligent in searching for and implementing new means for responding to developing threats. Our enemies are constantly searching for our vulnerabilities, and our ability to remain ahead of them is critical to our very survival.

I want to thank Mr. HOYER for introducing this piece of legislation which gives us the opportunity to have an official solemn expression. It extends our deepest condolences to all who suffered the loss of a loved one as a result of the attacks here in Washington and in New York and in Pennsylvania. To honor those who courageously risked and

even sacrificed their lives, some firefighters bravely went up those stairs at the World Trade Center knowing that it was fraught with unbelievable danger to their own lives. The legislation recognizes the service and sacrifice of our military personnel and their families who continue to strive to protect our country both here and abroad, and to continue to take all appropriate actions, and to do so, I would submit, in a bipartisan way to defend and protect our Nation.

This is a very good resolution and a very solemn day for America.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. I thank the gentleman.

I thank Majority Leader HOYER and Minority Leader BOEHNER for crafting this elegant, bipartisan resolution today, solemnly marking the tremendous tragedy of 9/11 and honoring the thousands of Americans who have worked since to recover and stop a similar event from happening again.

And although the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks will resonate for generations, the terrorists' cold-blooded violence will never break the American spirit, alter our values, or shake our resolve.

The job of protecting the American people is a perpetual responsibility. We are blessed with dedicated men and women in uniform and civilian roles who serve our Nation with honor here at home as well as abroad.

As we remember the fallen today, all of us must renew our commitment to do all that is necessary to protect our families, our communities, and our Nation.

I cannot say enough in recognition of the incredible sacrifices being made by military families around the world. Time and again, we grow concerned that the burden for them will be too great, and yet they've continued to amaze us with their dedication to country and devotion to service, not to mention their unsurpassed skill.

I still worry that we have asked too much of these few Americans and too little of the rest of us. But I cannot be prouder of those in uniform and their families.

Seven years ago, al Qaeda terrorists intent on destroying symbols of American power ruthlessly killed thousands of innocent people. The genesis of the 9/11 attacks emerged from al Qaeda bases in Afghanistan. I remain deeply concerned that the United States has not given the war in Afghanistan the priority it deserves. That concern was only reinforced yesterday by the testimony of the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff before the House Armed Services Committee. Admiral Mullen testified that the United States is not yet winning in Afghanistan. This is unacceptable, particularly when military and intelligence officials predict that this volatile region is the most likely

source of a future attack against our country.

On this day of memory for loss and sacrifice, my resolve to do my part in performing Congress' unique and necessary role in preventing a recurrence of such attack only grows stronger.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), the ranking member of the Oversight Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, as well as a member of the Intelligence Subcommittee on the Homeland Security Committee. He also has experienced the dramatic impact of the 9/11 attacks as he lost so many constituents and continues to this day to comfort and assist the over 80 families impacted by that attack.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, 9/11 was a wake-up call from hell. We all know how we reacted to it, but the weeks that followed for those of us in the greater New York area had special meaning. It was a very poignant time.

I think of the family of Joe Coppo, whose son Joseph, at the time a college student, said goodbye to him at a service in New Canaan. He talked about his dad and said, "Dad, you wanted me to become an adult. You taught me so many things." This is a young man who is now a marine and served in Iraq. He told us of all the things that his dad wanted him to learn. And then he said, "Dad, I have learned from you. Don't worry, I'm an adult now." And then looking at his mom he said, "I'll be there to take care of mom."

The next week in the same church, Frank Fetchet, in talking about his son Brad and all the things he wanted him to learn, said, "Son, I learned far more from you than I learned from me."

I think of a service in Easton, at a small New England church that was built hundreds of years ago and was so small that most people couldn't fit in. It was a beautiful sunny day, and most of the congregation was outside. They were talking about a young father, a young mother, and a precious 3-year-old child who were on the plane that brought down the second Twin Towers.

They talk about Peter Hanson, his wife Sue Kim, and their daughter Christine. They talked about the father and the mother, and then they had the nursery school teachers where their 3-year-old child attended school, speak about precious Christine. They ended by asking us to hold hands and sing Christine's favorite song, "The Barney Song."

When I left, Peter's parents wanted to see me and said, "This can't be about anger and hate." They were sweetly telling me about what it couldn't be, and I was thinking I needed to comfort them.

On this day, September 11th, I think of a family, Neal and Jean Coleman, and with their only remaining son, who the next day were saying goodbye to their two sons who perished, Scott and Keith. It was a candlelight vigil, and they were talking about their beautiful young sons who had so much to live

for. When the service was over, the parents insisted on seeing me. They said to me the same thing, the exact same thing, the Hansons had said "This can't be about anger and hate."

I think about Beverly Eckert, who met her husband years ago in junior high school, Sean Rooney. She called him on the phone because she thought he might be in one of the Twin Towers, and he was. He told her, "Honey, I can't get out of the building." And she said, "Go upstairs. Go to the top and you get to the observation floor and be rescued." So she spoke to him as he went to the top floor but the door was locked. She spoke to her husband for more than a half an hour knowing it was the last time they would ever speak, and said goodbye to him as the building collapsed.

Well, we know it can't be about anger and hate, but it is a wake-up call. There is more than one inconvenient truth that confronts us. The one the 9/11 Commission talks about, Islamic terrorists, who would do us harm at home and abroad.

We are confronting Islamic terrorists in Iraq and in Afghanistan, in Europe, in Asia, in North and South America. We are confronting them not out of anger and hate, but with the steely resolve that Americans are known for.

God bless the 9/11 families. God bless those who tried to save them. God bless all who live in this great country. We will prevail!

Mr. ACKERMAN. I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a member of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart as we remember and pay our respects to those brave Americans we lost in the September 11 terrorist attacks.

But Madam Speaker, I also come to the floor today with a feeling of resilience and determination, a resilience and determination that says we must remain vigilant in dismantling those terrorist networks intent on doing us harm; a resilience and determination that mandates that we give our intelligence agencies the resources they need to neutralize these rogue organizations that target our citizens and threaten the security of our homeland.

Having served as a police officer and a supervising watch officer with the Intelligence Fusion Center at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, I know firsthand about the security threats facing our Nation. And in order to successfully combat these threats, it is going to take a sustained and concerted effort from all of us. Therefore, it is my hope that we use this anniversary, Madam Speaker, as an opportunity to remember our fallen brethren, but also to reaffirm our commitment to protecting our citizens and our homeland.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN),

ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, because over 700 people from New Jersey lost their lives on this day 7 years ago.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, even after the remarkably emotional ceremonies on the House steps and at the Pentagon this morning, it is still hard to believe that 7 years have passed since tragedy struck in lower Manhattan and in the fields of Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon. It seems like only yesterday. In that time, we have mourned the loss of so many innocent people, learned many lessons, and have become stronger as a Nation.

The events of that day demonstrated the truest form of evil our Nation has encountered, but in the face of that evil, good arose. Firefighters, police and EMS personnel rushed to the scene in lower Manhattan and at the other sites. They saw a danger in front of them, but were determined to help those inside the Towers. Strangers helped each other out of the buildings knowing the risks they faced; neighbors and friends consoled one another; and we saw Americans from all walks of life stand united side by side, waiving the stars and stripes and lighting candles to honor those loved ones missing or lost.

Others gave in other ways, giving blood, donating to charity, or volunteering across our country. The best America has to offer was brought out by those terrible events of that fateful day. And we made a promise that morning that we would never forget, and we won't.

We are here this afternoon honoring those lost and remembering the sacrifices of those who serve us. We have not forgotten, and we never will. Seven years later, we remember and we gather. We remember those lost on September 11, 2001; 3,000 Americans, 700 from my home State, and people from more than 80 other countries around the world.

□ 1415

That morning too many of our friends and neighbors left for work, never to return home again. There is no doubt about it: The character and resolve of America is still strong. Let us take this time to honor and remember those whom we lost that day.

God bless you, those we lost, and God bless the United States of America.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend debate time by an additional 20 minutes, equally divided.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to recognize for 2 minutes a very distinguished Member from Long Island, a member of the Committee on Appropriations (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank my good friend and colleague and neighbor, Mr. ACKERMAN.

Madam Speaker, 7 years ago, they say, changed everything. There were more funerals than we thought were imaginable, more tears, more despair, more a sense of loss. But there were also more flags in this country than ever, more pride and more unity.

I remember how the people of my congressional district responded. I remember the vigil at Heckscher Park in Huntington, the elementary students at the Idle Hour School in Oakdale planting a garden, the thousands of people who converged on Cow Harbor Park in Northport, the candlelight vigils in Commack including one that will be held this evening. I remember attending a recovery workers conference several months after the attacks on 9/11 and speaking to a gentleman who in very painful breaths and labored breathing said to me, "Congressman, I'm not sure I am going to survive what I did. Will you take care of my family?" I remember the Viggianos and the Downys and the Murphys and over a hundred other families who lost somebody on that day.

It is important to remember these things, but it's also important to act. They need not only our commemoration, they need our health care. They need our continued moral support. They need our continued support in every sense of the word.

We remember these things, and we also remember those who did us great harm that day. Those who continue to live in caves in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We will not forget them either, and we support the courage and the bravery of those in the military who continue to pursue them.

Madam Speaker, I would make one other point, and that is this: Earlier today we assembled as Republicans and Democrats on the steps of the Capitol and sang "God Bless America." We did the same thing on 9/11 hours after the attack. I hope that we will remember the unity that we displayed on that dreadful day and the unity that we displayed several hours ago and continue to work together to move our country forward, not just in the memory of those who perished and those who suffered on 9/11, but to make this country a better place for them.

God bless them. God bless America.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. FOSSELLA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it's been suggested that September 11 was a tragic day. Indeed it was. But the reality is there were thousands of individual tragedies that occurred.

Time has given us the perspective to look back and understand what really happened. It has given us the ability to look back and see how individual fami-

lies have dealt with their loss. Staten Island and Brooklyn alone lost more than 300 people. If you go drive around the streets of Staten Island today, you will see street names with the names of those lost on September 11 as a constant reminder of the extent of the carnage and the damage.

I have been to memorial runs. I've seen scholarships offered in the names of the deceased. I've seen families try to tell their young children, who are probably too young at the time to understand, what it meant when Daddy wasn't coming home anymore, when Mom wasn't coming home. These children are at an age now that they can begin to appreciate that they'll never have a dad again. There were hundreds of them on Staten Island alone and thousands across the country of young children who lost their fathers and lost their mothers.

The role we have here is very simple, I think. That is to protect the American people and to ensure an attack like that never happens again. The most powerful way we can memorialize September 11, and as our own private thoughts and prayers and to offer to extend a helping hand to those in need, but as Members of Congress I think we have a solemn responsibility and duty to stand up against the evil, against our true enemies who want not to just destroy this country but our way of life, and forever may we remember those who paid so dearly with their lives on September 11, 2001.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased now to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished chairwoman of the Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, the distinguished NITA LOWEY.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, today is a solemn day for New Yorkers and all Americans as we remember the men, women, children who lost their lives 7 years ago on September 11, 2001. For many of us the wounds of that terrible day are still raw, as are the reminders that are now woven into our daily lives. The pain associated with the loss of loved ones, the still incomplete skyline of Manhattan, the terror alerts, the checkpoints, the baggage searches and the war.

The attacks of September 11 were intended to strike at the heart of our country, our values, and our way of life. In spite of this incredible act of hatred and violence, however, Americans remain united not only in our resolve to defeat those who want to do us harm but in our unwavering support for our Armed Forces, first responders, and the intelligence community who have answered the call to protect us at home and abroad. It is in this spirit that we remain committed to honoring the memories of all who lost their lives on that horrible day and commending those who continue to risk their lives since then to bolster our homeland security, protect our ideals and values, keep our communities safe, and ensure that America never again experiences such an evil act of violence on our soil.

Thank you, Mr. ACKERMAN, for sponsoring this resolution, and God bless America.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT), an esteemed member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today we remember all those lost on September 11, 2001, a day that changed America forever. No American will ever forget where they were on that fateful morning as the images began to flash across the television screens. September 11, 2001 shook us to our core. And while our hearts broke, our spirits did not. In fact, Madam Speaker, they grew stronger. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of those innocent individuals who died on that fateful morning. Seven years later lessons have been learned. Our security, intelligence capabilities, and our inter-governmental communications have all improved, but we must always remain vigilant.

On this day also, Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to our Armed Forces who have answered the call of service after 9/11. Their dedication and sacrifice cannot be overlooked. Every day we live in peace and freedom we owe to them. The passage of time will heal the scars from September 11, but we will never forget.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the member of the Committee on Appropriations, the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding and congratulate Congressman ACKERMAN on this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support today on the anniversary of 9/11, 2001, and to pay tribute to the over 3,000 Americans who lost their lives in New York, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania.

Let me remember that day through the life of one man, a retired air traffic controller, Mr. John Werth, a constituent who was on duty that day at the Major Air Control Center located in Oberlin, Ohio, in our Ninth Congressional District of Ohio. His professionalism and attention to duty that terrible day saved hundreds, literally thousands of lives, though in the end he was not able to prevent the crash of United flight 93, which went down over Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and in which 40 of the lives lost that day remain forever in our memory.

In today's issue of USA Today, which I shall include in the RECORD, Mr. Werth's photo and story appear on the front page. It is appropriate that after all these years some of the heroic stories of that day become more fully available to the public. Mr. Werth's clearheaded efforts, under great pressure and amid great national confusion, diverted aircraft away from the hijacked plane, saving lives. As pro-

fessional air traffic controllers in the employ of the Government of the United States, he and his colleagues worked hand in hand with our military to do the best they could under the most trying of circumstances. His three decades of experience served America well and cannot be overstated. He, and I know his colleagues across our Nation, acted with courage and dispatch. And we all respect them deeply. They carry with them in their memories of that day the transmissions from those cockpits. There is no question he and his colleagues literally saved thousands of lives by safely landing thousands of flights across this country. They avoided midair collisions and, for their grace under pressure, deserve every recognition and medal of honor the American people can bestow. They hold our admiration, they hold our gratitude, and they hold our respect for their patriotism and attention to duty. We are forever indebted to them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman very much.

On behalf of the American people and certainly the citizens of Ohio who remain extremely proud of John Werth and his colleagues and his air controller associates across our country, please let the record show we extend our abiding thanks on this historic day. We extend our deep remembrances to the families and communities still affected. And we ask God to bless America and help us lead the world to a more peaceful day.

[From USA Today, Sept. 11, 2008]

7 YEARS LATER, THE TERROR IS STILL VIVID
(By Alan Levin)

BERLIN, OHIO—He spent most of his life controlling airplanes. But on this day seven years ago, United Flight 93 was beyond control.

Cleveland Center air-traffic controller John Werth had never heard anything like it—the sounds of an animalistic struggle crackling over his radio. He heard screaming, hollering and two guttural groans coming from the cockpit.

The horror of one of the four 9/11 suicide hijackings was playing out, Werth tells USA Today in his first public recounting of the day that forever changed America.

"I lost 40 people that day," Werth says of the desperate efforts he and his colleagues made to communicate with Flight 93 and keep other planes away from it until the jet crashed in a rural Pennsylvania field.

Today, the story of that flight is well known—in books, movies and tales of heroism about the passengers who tried to retake the jet from four al-Qaeda terrorists, and probably prevented an attack on the White House or U.S. Capitol. For Werth, it's been a vivid—if largely private—reality. He was there. He heard it all.

Werth's account provides new details about what happened as the hijacking unfolded and how the chaos in the skies caused alarm and confusion for controllers and national security forces.

For seven years, Werth, 61, hasn't told his story publicly, initially because he was not allowed to because of a government subpoena

related to the prosecution of al-Qaeda operative Zacarias Moussaoui, and later because Werth didn't want the attention. Now, Werth's ready to discuss it and set the record straight.

It was Werth who heard the transmission from Flight 93 that suggested a bomb was aboard. The transmission, in a thick accent and broken English, likely was from hijacker pilot Ziad Jarrah, the 9/11 Commission determined later.

The bomb was apparently a bluff, a threat the hijackers used to try to control the passengers.

At the time, Werth says, it created a new level of alarm among the controllers clearing other planes out of the wayward path of Flight 93, which had departed from Newark, N.J., that morning and flown into Ohio before making a U-turn toward Washington.

What if, Werth wondered, the hijackers had a bomb—maybe even a nuclear device? How far would Werth have to keep other jets from a nuclear bomb's shock wave? Twenty miles? Thirty?

Every time Werth turned other planes away from Flight 93, the hijacked jet seemed to surge toward them, he recalls, raising questions about what the hijackers were trying to do. At the time, he knew that some passenger jets were missing and that one had hit a World Trade Center tower in New York.

"I'm saying, 'What is he doing?'" Werth recalls. "'Is this about a midair collision.'" an attempt to ram another passenger jet with Flight 93?

All the while, uncertainty gripped the nation—and Cleveland Center, which oversees a wide swath of the nation's skies between Chicago and New York.

"SOMETHING WAS REALLY OFF"

That morning began routinely for Werth as he sat in front of his radar screen and radio, surrounded by maps and computers. Soon, the news began trickling down to him.

Two jets were "lost" over New York. Someone said a small plane (actually a jet, it turned out) had hit the World Trade Center in New York. A supervisor told him to try to contact American Airlines Flight 77, which had gone missing over Kentucky.

"That's when I knew something was really off," he says.

He was also told to keep an eye on Delta Air Lines Flight 1989, which had taken off from Boston. Amid the confusion, controllers in Boston worried it was connected to the jets missing in New York. Those jets, American Airlines Flight 11 and United 175, also had departed from Boston.

Finally came word that a second plane, a large jet, had hit New York's twin towers.

The pilots of Flight 93, headed west to San Francisco from Newark, arrived at 9:24 a.m. in Werth's control sector, a roughly 100-by-100-mile patch in the Cleveland area that handles only high-altitude traffic. The Boeing 757 carried seven crewmembers and 37 passengers, including the four hijackers. Within four minutes of arriving in Werth's sector, according to the 9/11 Commission Report and other government documents, the hijackers had launched a violent takeover of the jet.

During the struggle, one of the pilots tried to make a distress call or inadvertently switched on the radio's microphone, allowing Werth and other planes in the area to overhear what was happening aboard Flight 93.

Werth says most of the sounds of the struggle were unintelligible. There were screams and groans. Werth recalls turning to another controller. "I looked at him and said, 'Dave, did that sound the same to you as it did to me?'" He just kind of looked at me wide-eyed and nodded."

He knew another flight was probably under attack, but which one? "Somebody call Cleveland?" he radioed. No one replied.

Thirty-three seconds later came a second broadcast from the cockpit. It also had the sounds of a struggle, but this time Werth made out a few words: "Get out of here. Get out of here."

About that time, Flight 93 descended about 700 feet. By then, Werth was pretty sure the flight had been hijacked. What were the hijackers up to? Why do they want to be over Cleveland? Why are they this far west? I thought at first, well, you've got the Sears Tower (in Chicago) straight west," he says.

There were no procedures or training exercises for such an emergency, Werth says, so he made it up as he went along. He asked other crews whether they had heard the scuffle over the radio. When they replied, he knew they were still OK.

The hijacked jet became erratic. It sped up and started gaining on another United flight. Werth commanded the second jet to turn right. Seconds later, Flight 93 turned to the right, too.

Minutes later, as Flight 93 climbed from 35,000 to 41,000 feet, Werth told Delta Flight 1989 to turn right to clear it away from the hijacked jet. Then Flight 93 made a 180-degree turn back toward the east, forcing Werth to move the Delta flight back out of the way. "Delta 89, we're gonna go the other way," he radioed.

As Flight 93 passed over Akron, headed by that time in the direction of Washington, Werth heard a supervisor call out that a jet had just struck the Pentagon.

"IT'S THE DELTA!"

Before United 93 had even checked in with Werth, a supervisor had asked him to watch Delta 1989, a westbound flight from Boston to Los Angeles. It was 60 miles east of his sector, flying behind the United jet.

Werth has never been sure who called the facility to warn about the flight or why, and other accounts have been murky. The flight was a Boeing 767 like two other hijacked flights out of Boston. It would have been logical to suspect that it, too, might have been a target.

As Werth struggled to keep other jets away from United 93, he had to turn the Delta flight several times. The pilots responded normally. He couldn't be sure of anything that day, but it seemed a safe bet that the Delta flight hadn't been hijacked.

However, someone in the military seemed to have mixed up the Delta flight with the hijacked jet. A supervisor rushed up to Werth and said, "It's the Delta, it's the Delta!" Werth recalls. She told him that a military liaison on the phone had confirmed that the Delta jet was hijacked.

Werth told her he was pretty sure United 93 had been hijacked, not the Delta one. A few moments later, she came back.

"He's fine—at least for now," Werth told her.

After consulting again on the phone, she returned again. "They said it's a confirmed hijack and a bomb threat," she told him. It was United 93 that had made the bomb threats, Werth thought. That convinced him they had to be confusing the two flights.

"Tell them they're full of it!" Werth says he replied. "I thought, 'God, don't (have military jets that were being scrambled) go after the wrong plane.'"

At 9:44 a.m., the Delta pilots requested a change of course from Werth. The same concerns about their safety had been passed on to the company, and dispatchers had ordered it to land as soon as possible in Cleveland.

As it turned out, the military was in no position to shoot down Delta 1989, but Werth didn't know that. He followed the flight on radar until it landed safely.

Flight 93 didn't make another radio transmission after 9:39 a.m. Werth watched on

radar as the jet crashed near Shanksville, Pa., at 10:03.

A BOND WITH FLIGHT 93

Werth retired in 2003 without ever having made an air-traffic error during his 32-year tenure, according to the Federal Aviation Administration, a remarkable record in an era when computers automatically track when planes get too close together.

He says he has focused his life on his wife, Mary Kay, and his passion, golf. He says he has watched with occasional outrage as he has been portrayed in movies and books about 9/11 by people who had never spoken to him.

Today, he will attend a memorial service in Shanksville for the crew and passengers of Flight 93. He's not sentimental or emotional about that day, but he feels a bond with the victims.

"It's hard, when you're a controller, to lose an aircraft," he says. "When there is absolutely nothing you can do and you're not in control, it's doubly hard."

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in strong support of this important resolution. Today we pause to remember nearly 3,000 who were killed, and thousands more who were injured, on that fateful morning 7 years ago. We remember the unspeakable evil we saw that morning, the terror that confronted us on our own shores. But we also remember the heroism of countless ordinary Americans who did extraordinary things that tragic day and in the weeks and months that followed.

Like the firefighters, paramedics, police officers, and other first responders who rushed into crumbling burning buildings, risking and giving their lives to do their duty and to save others, and, of course, the millions of Americans who gathered in church to pray, in communities centers and schools to organize relief for victims, and lined up around the corners to give blood. When evil confronted America that day, we did not flinch, we did not back down, and we did not surrender.

In the 7 years that have passed since that day, our Nation has remained on offense against the threat of radical Islamic extremism. It is a struggle that will define our generation and shape the next American century. We did not choose this battle, but we will meet it, as Americans always have, and we must be victorious.

I would again like to express my gratitude to the United States Armed Forces. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have answered the call of their country in her hour of need. They and their families have made countless sacrifices. Over 4,500 have given what President Lincoln called the fullest measure of devotion to their country. As long as this threat exists and Americans troops are deployed in harm's way, they must have the full support of this Congress. On this day when we look back and remember, let us gain strength from the examples of bravery

and courage we have seen over the last 7 years. We must honor the legacy of the fallen and stand united against the continued threats to our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in renewing our commitment to these principles that have made us the home of the brave and will continue to keep us the home of the free.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, the distinguished gentleman from New York's 19th Congressional District.

□ 1430

Mr. HALL of New York. While the terrorists were able to destroy the World Trade Towers in New York City, and damage the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, they did not take into account the indomitable American spirit.

My most lasting image of that day is not planes flying into buildings or towers collapsing. I remember the people—firefighters, police officers, EMTs, ordinary men and women—doing everything in their power to help. I think of all the people who rushed downtown, without regard to their own safety, determined to do what they could do for others. They clearly demonstrated to our enemies that our spirit cannot be broken and that we are determined to confront any threat to our national security.

The United States will never give in to terrorism and we will never shirk from our duty to defend our country and the principles for which it stands.

I urge all Americans to honor those who lost their lives on September 11, and to commit ourselves to whatever sacrifices it may take to prevent such an attack from taking place again.

Also, I'd like to especially recognize a constituent and friend, named Jay Winuk, the founder of MyGoodDeed.org, an organization he created to further honor the victims, families, and survivors of September 11, by encouraging the government to recognize that day as a national day of community service, and to encourage people to perform good deeds to mark the date.

Jay's brother, Glenn Winuk, was a volunteer firefighter and attorney working at a Manhattan law firm on 9/11. He lost his life at the World Trade Center after helping to evacuate everyone from his office, and then rushing back into the South Tower, looking for others to save. When he was last seen alive, Glenn was helping people escape the tower and reach safety.

Many rescue and recovery workers volunteered their time and efforts in the hours and days following the attack. Jay has found a unique and touching way of honoring all their efforts and ensuring that the heroes of that day are not forgotten. Through the work of citizens like Glenn and Jay Winuk, this country remains as great

and as powerful as it is, and we should all recognize and remember them, and all those who lost their lives, or whose lives were forever changed on that day.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I'm pleased to yield 2 minutes to a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and the ranking member of its Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN).

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Madam Speaker, 7 years ago, September 11, 2001, a day that will live in infamy, we suffered as a Nation the greatest attack on our shores since a similar day some six decades previous. That dastardly attack resulted in a unification of this country such as we had not seen before. Similarly, the attack some 7 years ago brought a unity to this Nation that we have been lacking for some period of time. In the ensuing days and years, we have seen remarkable selfless dedication to serve by men and women in uniform in our Armed Forces, and those who are serving us, even to this point, as our first responders.

So we have to ask, much as Lincoln asked at his famous address at Gettysburg, recognizing that we cannot consecrate the grounds that were attacked more than they have been consecrated by the sacrifices of our fellow citizens, what can we do to fulfill our obligation?

I would just say this. The best way we can maintain our commitment to those who sacrificed and those who have suffered, and still suffer, is to recognize the continuation of the threat against us, the urgency of the matter before us, and the fact that we cannot in any way lag in our responsibility to respond to that threat.

There's a great temptation because we have not been so attacked in the last 7 years to believe it just has happened. But we have been able to forestall attacks because of tremendous sacrifice by many men and women serving on behalf of this Nation, who continue to serve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I'm pleased to yield the gentleman such additional time as he may consume.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. It would be the height of tragedy, Madam Speaker, if we were to fail to back up the commitment by those who have sacrificed thus far by accepting their sacrifice as something which is a matter-of-fact circumstance. No. The only way we can honor their lives and their sacrifice is by ensuring that we maintain vigilance daily.

We take an oath to uphold the Constitution, but we take an oath beyond that. We take an oath to uphold the greatness of our fellow citizens. I would hope that we would dedicate ourselves to understand, with all the other

things we have to do as Members of Congress, that our first and foremost responsibility is to create the security within which American citizens can exercise their freedoms.

And so my plea and my prayer today is that we don't accept the successes of the last 7 years as inevitable, but we understand that they have been hard fought, and that we need to continue that fight.

I thank you for the time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, we have no further requests for time. I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I'm pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from West Virginia, chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, representing the Third Congressional District of that State, Chairman RAHALL.

Mr. RAHALL. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise with all Americans, and indeed with most of the civilized world, in marking the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, and in doing so, remember the thousands of innocent Americans who lost their lives that day, and extend the Nation's highest prayers to their families, friends, and loved ones. I thank God for the freedom which Americans enjoy, a freedom for which American lives were lost.

Like so many of my colleagues, I attended a dedication ceremony this morning of the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon, where I joined Huntington, West Virginia, residents Dr. Ken and Sharon Ambrose, whose son, Dr. Paul Ambrose, was one of the 184 lives lost in the Pentagon on that American Airlines Flight 77 during that fateful day of September 11, 2001.

Indeed, Dr. Paul Ambrose was the first name called this morning when the bells were rung for each of the victims at the Pentagon. The viewing of his memorial, so beautifully etched in the grounds of the Pentagon, will truly bless his memory eternally.

This ceremony and countless others around the Nation today continue to remind us that freedom does not come free. Thousands of Americans—first responders, military service, and Guard members, law enforcement personnel, medical personnel, volunteers—continue this very day to devote themselves day in and day out to protecting the innocent in times of disaster and tragedy, risking their own lives to do so.

Over the last 7 years, thousands of Americans, both in and out of government, have worked tirelessly to improve the security of our Nation. Much progress has been made, but more work remains to be done. Our number one duties as Members of Congress, of course, are to protect the people of this country and to ensure that such a terrible tragedy never happens again. As we move forward, we all will work hard

to continue to keep our homeland secure and to seek out and defeat terrorist organizations around the world.

I thank the gentleman again for yielding.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the Speaker of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 1 minute.

Ms. PELOSI. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for his leadership in giving us this opportunity today, on September 11, to express our gratitude to our first responders, our sympathy to the families of 9/11, and our concern for the safety of the American people. I acknowledge his leadership role in this from his committee standpoint, but as a New Yorker who knows firsthand the horror of 9/11. So, thank you, Mr. ACKERMAN, for your leadership and for your commitment on this issue. I also thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her leadership in bringing this to the floor as well.

When Abraham Lincoln was a very young man, not 30 years old, he made a speech in 1838, and in it he was talking about the history of our country and important events and how sometimes they are lost in the public memory. He referred to the "silent artillery of time," sometimes referenced as "harsh artillery of time," but nonetheless, the artillery of time to dull the memory of important events.

Certainly, that is a gift if the artillery of time dulls the pain of a terrible loss. But there's no artillery powerful enough to dull the memory of 9/11, what it did to our country, what it attempted to do to our country.

The courage of the families of 9/11, who turned their grief into strength, and arguing for better policy in terms of the 9/11 Commission and the enactment of its recommendations to make America safer, their grief through strength to action, has made America safer. We have more to do.

The silent artillery of time will never diminish the appreciation or the memory of the courage of our first responders, our police, our firemen, our emergency services people, the construction workers, who went in right away, risking their lives, so that they could save other lives. Some of them lost their lives.

The silent artillery of time will never, never dull the act of cowardice on the part of these terrorists. They don't care about life or buildings. They do care about instilling fear. That is their goal, the terrorists, to instill terror.

But they did not succeed in that regard, because New York rallied. This morning, we were at the Pentagon to see the families there, and their spirit, as the Pentagon Memorial was dedicated, and referencing what happened in Pennsylvania. The indomitable spirit of the American people is too strong a force for the terrorists to succeed with.

So, again, the silent artillery of time will never, ever have us forget what happened to our country on that day, and the hatred and cowardice that inspired it.

So, here we are today, 7 years later, saying once again to the families how sorry we are, thanking them for their courage, hoping for the best for them for their children and the future. Here we are today, 7 years later, saying to the first responders, Thank you very much.

But, as some others have said here, words are not enough. There are ways that we can put into action our appreciation, and that is to recognize the health needs of those who responded on that day and whose health problems linger to this day, and some that we won't even know about into the future.

We will never forget, no matter what, what they did to minimize the toll, the death toll that might have been. We always remember because we have constant reminders of it, as well the courage of these people on a day-to-day basis still across America keeping us safe.

On this day, it drives home what we always know, that our first responsibility as elected officials is to protect the American people, make them safe in their homes, neighborhoods, towns, and communities, and ensure their national security. That is something that we must do, working together, so that we can meet any threat to our security, wherever it may occur.

In that spirit, I want to acknowledge also the courage, patriotism, and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform and their sacrifices that they are making, and that their families are making, to keep America safe.

So with all the respect in the world for President Lincoln when he was a young man, talking about the silent artillery of time, his message reminds us that, again, time may lessen pain, but it will never diminish our memory of what happened on 9/11, the courage that followed, and the responsibility we have to keep the American people safe.

God bless those families. They have done so much for our country, fresh off their tragedy. God bless those families. With their courage, God truly blessed America.

□ 1445

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 7¼ minutes.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, a very thoughtful general once observed that the loss of 1,000 lives is a statistic, but the loss of one life was a tragedy. There were thousands of tragedies that occurred 7 years ago today. I want to talk about one of them.

It was a very long week here in Washington, that week of 9/11. It took three or four times the usual time for me to get back to New York. It was late at night. I was able to get a cab in

New York to take me down to the World Trade Center, to the pier where they had set up all of the emergency work. I went there at that hour to find my wife, who was a mental health worker, one of those people who were asked to come down and volunteer.

As I waited for her to do the things that she and so many other people were doing, I walked around. There was a long, huge wall with pictures on 8½ by 11, on napkins, on flyers that were drawn up, people who had pictures of their loved ones, their husbands, their wives, their children, if anybody saw them.

There were firemen walking around trying to console women who did not know yet if they were widows.

There were little dolls alongside the wall on the floor stretching for two blocks along this pier. They all had notes on them. They were from children who suffered the loss of parents in the Murrah Building disaster. And these notes all said things like, "When I was in trouble and frightened, someone gave me this doll to make me feel better. I send it to you and hope that you feel better."

A fire chief came over to me and asked me if I would go over and just stand by this gentleman who was all alone at the wall. It was probably midnight. And this fellow in unique garb, he was a Hassidic Jew, dressed in the traditional big brim black hat, looking very much like the Amish do with the long black coat, he stood in front of one flyer without blinking. The only thing he did was move back and forth, back and forth, staring at this picture.

I just stood next to him. And after a minute he spoke to me, without even looking at me, just staring at the picture on this flyer that looked like a younger version of himself, and he said, "That was my brother." He, I was told, was there every night doing this. "He was my brother. He called me to say good-bye."

"I told him," he said, "that he had to get out of that building. He had to get out right away." And he said to me, "I'm sitting holding hands with the young man who works in the cubicle next to mine, a young Puerto Rican kid who lives in a wheelchair, and there is no way for him to get out of this building. I told him he would not die alone, and I am just calling to say good-bye."

There is nothing anyone could say, nothing I could say. I just stood there.

There are thousands of stories, there are thousands of lives, there are tens of thousands of people who were immediately impacted by relatives who died that day, who are heroes as well, some of whom knowingly, some of whom unknowingly went to their deaths, in addition to all of those who rushed into the building to save those that they could.

As we remember the first responders, as we remember the people who dug in that pile for so many days and weeks and months, risking their own lives,

putting their health at risk and danger, as we know today, an issue that still has to be addressed, we remember also those who caused all of that anguish and pain, all of those thousands of tragedies, who changed history in that one incident, and rededicate ourselves to not being only strong, but smart, as we confront those threats and honor the memory of all those who were lost and all those who tried to help on that day.

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, it has been 7 years since the terrorist attacks that took the lives of over 3,000 men, women, and children. I join with my colleagues to offer sincere condolences to the families of the victims. We must never forget these tragic events; they have left a wound that will never heal.

I also rise to remember and honor the first responders who acted with bravery and heroism on that day and during the recovery period. During one of the worst tragedies our Nation has faced, we witnessed the most remarkable acts of self-sacrifice, courage, and compassion. It is a testament to the American spirit.

Since 9/11, we have taken steps to help anticipate and deter future attacks and prepare for a quick and effective response following an emergency. One benchmark of the progress made is the absence of further acts of terrorism on U.S. soil during the past 7 years. This has not been an accident.

The men and women serving in our Nation's Armed Forces are pursuing terrorists overseas and warrant our utmost respect and appreciation for their faithful service. Additionally, the 216,000 employees of the Department of Homeland Security deserve our gratitude for their efforts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to gather and analyze intelligence, coordinate with State and local law enforcement, harden our borders, secure our transportation systems, and enforce the laws.

We all recognize that our foes are extremely determined and patient; even now they are looking to exploit our open and free society to carry out additional attacks. Our resolve must be even stronger to detect, deter, and respond. There is much more work to do to bolster our security and counter changing threats.

Today is a day to renew our commitment to improve our intelligence capabilities, secure our borders, support our first responders in communities large and small, and intensify our vigilance.

While the attacks occurred in New York, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania, the Nation felt the reverberations and stood together in unprecedented unity. I urge my colleagues to put aside partisan differences and make the security of our Nation and the well-being of our military personnel fighting the war on terrorism top priorities.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, this is the day we pause and remember those who lost their lives on that terrible day 7 years ago. We also remember the heroism of the first responders, and of those who fought back against terrorists—people like the late Todd Beamer, a resident of central New Jersey. But even as we look back in sorrow and remembrance, we must also look to the future and remember our obligation to prevent other American families from enduring a similar horror in the future.

We have made progress in making our country more secure since September 11,

2001. A critical piece of legislation was enacted in August 2007 to better protect Americans from terrorism and improve our security. The legislation (H.R. 1) completed the enactment of the recommendations of the bipartisan, independent 9/11 Commission into law. This law requires 100 percent screening of cargo on passenger aircraft within 3 years and 100 percent scanning of seaborne cargo before it gets to U.S. ports within 5 years, ensures that first responders can communicate with each other in an emergency, and improves rail and mass transit security. It is disgraceful that the administration has failed to implement the law, and I will certainly do my part to keep the pressure up until they fully comply.

On the issue of meeting post-9/11 threats, I'm pleased that this Congress has taken steps to secure our rail and transit systems. As we saw with the attacks on rail and mass transit systems in Europe and India over the last few years, transit systems are prime targets. I was pleased to lead the effort last year that secured \$400 million in funding for rail and transit security grant programs—\$225 million more than President Bush requested in his budget. We still have a long way to go before our rail and transit systems are as safe as they should be, but we are finally moving in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, 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 1 million Iraqis and over 4,155 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.

Last year, I voted against a similar resolution to the one before us today because it ignored the reality of the administration's use of 9/11 as a false justification for war. This year, I will vote for the resolution because I have renewed hope that the day will come when September 11 will no longer symbolize the false justification for an unjustified and unprovoked war.

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

war, have traveled 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, 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. 9/11 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.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, 7 years ago this week I sat in my Tallahassee office feeling scared, angry and sad. Those were some of the first emotions that went through my mind after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Like most Americans that day I was struck by the utter hatred toward America that consumed the men flying the planes that crashed into our revered national landmarks. What kind of person is filled with so much hate that they would kill themselves and thousands of innocent people at the same time?

Even today I still struggle to comprehend what drives these people to commit mass murder and try to destroy the political and religious freedoms that millions enjoy around the world.

Since 9/11 the attacks on America and her allies by extremist Islamic jihadists have continued. While you and I don't believe that mass murder achieves anything, there are thousands of young Islamic terrorists who believe in jihad and the reestablishment of the Muslim caliphate.

Thankfully, due to the vigilance of our troops abroad and the changes to our Nation's security back home, America has been spared further devastation.

Other nations have not been so lucky. British subway commuters were attacked by bomb-wielding terrorists. Spanish trains were bombed by radical Islamic terrorists, killing dozens. A nightclub in Bali was attacked, killing several hundred. Muslim extremists attacked a school in Russia, murdering more than 300, many of them little children. The list goes on and on, in virtually every region of the world.

The fact is that the United States is engaged in a battle with an enemy that is difficult to track and hard to defeat. Unlike World War II or Korea, where we knew what country we were fighting and could identify the enemy by the color of their uniforms, today's battles are a fundamentally different challenge.

It is no longer the nation state declaring war on the United States that we must fear. Instead it is the lone fundamental terrorist with the tools, weapons and willpower to sacrifice his life so that Americans will be killed. All it takes is one dirty nuclear suitcase bomb to destroy an American city like Orlando or Tampa.

That is why it is so important to remember what happened on that fateful September morning 7 years ago. The deaths of 3,000 Americans should never be forgotten. As the years pass, however, some have gotten complacent about our Nation's security and the threat of Islamic terrorists.

Sadly, we must remain ever vigilant, because there are new threats to the United States and her allies unearthed every day. There is no doubt about it, Al-Qaeda and other like-minded terrorist organizations are still plotting to kill Americans and destroy our freedoms and liberties.

September 11, 2001, is a solemn day in our collective memories. While it is a time for remembrance and prayer, it should also remind Americans of the challenges we face to protect our democratic rights and freedoms.

With thousands of American soldiers stationed around the world, this anniversary is a perfect time to say a prayer for their safety and to thank them for defending the memories of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

I hope that you take this opportunity to remember the victims of 9/11 and never forget the sacrifices of those who fight for our freedoms.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today we mark an event so important to our Nation that it can be identified, simply, by two numbers. The phrase "9/11" bears all of the emotions of that fateful day in 2001. Feelings of shock, helplessness and sorrow are still present 7 years later as our Nation engages its enemies abroad. As Americans, we stand to honor those who lost their lives that day, as well as the brave men and women of the armed services who sacrifice so much to protect us from further attack.

On September 11, 2001, we learned that heroes still exist. Just as those who serve our country are willing to forego life for the benefit of others, the firefighters, police and emergency personnel and those passengers who fought back provided the reassurance that Americans still will give their lives for others and preserve the future of our Nation. The heroes of 9/11 reaffirm that those who served in past battles did not serve in vain. Their examples allowed us a new generation of role models.

As we honor those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, we must take this opportunity to recognize them as genuine heroes. The significance of their sacrifice is an incredible reminder of the great responsibility we have as Americans. There is not a U.S. citizen who is not affected by the events of that day. To honor their memory is to honor the sacrifice made by everyone who has laid down their life in defense of freedom.

9/11 marked a coming of age for the world. International terrorism had shown up at our front door and surprised a sleeping world. Though the events of that day will be remembered for the physical devastation that ensued, hope and renewed sense of patriotism will be September 11th's legacy. Our innocence shattered, we made renewed efforts to

keep our homeland safe and our world more secure.

Shortly after the attacks of September 11, I joined a half a dozen members of Congress in visiting New York City and the remains of the World Trade Center. I wanted to express on behalf of all Kansans our support and concern for the victims and their families and to express our condolences.

Just a few feet away from Ground Zero, New Yorkers created a makeshift memorial to those who died in the rubble of the Twin Towers. There, thousands of ordinary people brought cards and flowers as a tribute to those who died. While there, I happened to pick up a white piece of notebook paper, blue lines, jagged edge, torn from a spiral notebook. On that piece of paper was the writing of a child: "Dear Daddy, How much I miss you. How I hope heaven is a wonderful place and I hope I can live a life good enough to join you there someday. Signed, Amanda, Age 12".

Amanda, who I will not meet nor ever know, must never be forgotten. Her note to her Dad is a reminder that each generation is called on to preserve our way of life and that the cause is noble. That I, as a member of Congress and we, as American citizens, have a responsibility—there must be no more Amandas.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my gratitude for the heroes we are honoring today. Most importantly, I want to express my gratitude to the people who have made our freedoms a reality. Thank you, and may God bless you.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, it is difficult to believe that it has been 7 years since that horrific day of September 11, 2001. It is important that today every American take time to pause and reflect upon those who we lost on that day and those whose heroism and bravery vividly showed the indomitable American spirit.

For the last 7 years our Nation has been at war against an enemy that hides in the shadows and preys upon the innocent. An enemy that does not value life or freedom. But that enemy has found that the will of the American people is impossible to defeat. That the vigilance and dedication of those in law enforcement who protect our communities is unending. That the bravery and commitment to the cause of freedom of the American Armed Forces is unmatched in the world.

So on this solemn day it is appropriate to mourn those who were lost. To say a prayer for their memory and for their families. And to give thanks to those who so bravely continue to protect our freedom. May God continue to bless this great Nation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, on the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, I join every American in honoring the innocent men, women, and children who lost their lives to those attacks. I pay tribute to their memory, and extend my deepest sympathies to the loved ones they left behind.

I also honor the brave first responders—the firefighters, policemen, and ordinary citizens—who so courageously risked and, in many cases, gave their lives for others.

Over the past seven years, Americans have worked tirelessly to prevent further attacks and protect the American people. The 110th Congress joined them by focusing on keeping our country safe and has wisely implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. We now have vastly improved security on our

rail and public transit systems, more robust screening of aircraft and seaborne cargo, and strengthened law enforcement capabilities.

Those who perpetrated the attacks of September 11, 2001 must be brought to justice. I am determined to see the next administration rectify the grave mismanagement that has allowed many of these terrorists to go unpunished.

We must also acknowledge that today's threats—terrorism, global economic upheaval, worldwide epidemics, and environmental devastation—are nuanced and interconnected and cannot be addressed by military force alone. Protecting our security demands that we cooperate with our neighbors and promote wise governance. We must address global poverty, promote wise stewardship of natural resources, and provide aid to developing and devastated peoples.

It is the first-order duty of Congress to keep Americans safe. As we commemorate the seventh anniversary of 9/11, I join Americans across our Nation in grieving for loved ones lost, and in honoring the heroes among us. I resolve to do all in my power to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1420, a resolution recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our Nation's first responders and armed forces, and reaffirming the commitment to the defense of the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

I support this resolution because although seven years have passed since that fateful day, the pain, agony, and sense of loss still endures in the hearts and minds of the American people. As we reflect on the tragic events of 9/11, we can never forget the courage and heroism of the men and women who selflessly reacted to help those that were incapacitated and remember the nearly 3,000 innocent lives that were sacrificed without warning.

This tragedy has left an indelible scar on the Nation's history and has awakened a newfound sense of patriotism and nationalism. This day of remembrance is important and necessary because it reminds us that we must continue to support those that fight abroad to keep our homeland safe.

America must now look forward and do all that it can to ensure the integrity of freedom upon which this country has been founded. We must learn from the aftermath of this catastrophe to respond and react to such disastrous events without inhibiting the civil liberties and freedom of the very people we serve.

Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2001, the Nation watched in horror as the unthinkable occurred. On that faithful day, a ruthless attack had been orchestrated, transforming the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon into human infernos that claimed thousands of innocent lives. The tragic events of 9/11 were examples of despicable acts of faceless cowards who have no regard for human life.

Across the United States and around the world, people of all ages and walks of life collectively united during a time of tremendous sorrow and despair. It was an unforgettable day that transformed the lives of many and united Americans in a way this Nation had not seen since World War II.

As I stand here today, my heart remains torn from the gruesome events of that day as

I can only imagine what the passengers on flights United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175 were thinking of when they found out that they had only moments to live. I must commend the brave souls that did everything to help prevent more lives from being lost. The actions taken by the passengers of flight 93, firefighters, policemen, and first responders can never be forgotten and their service is worthy of great recognition.

I stand here today simply to offer my deepest condolences to the families of the fallen victims and the servicemen and women who sacrificed their own lives to save others. On behalf the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I express my sorrow for the tragic losses in New York, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. However, we must also not forget the good that has come about in the midst of a country that harbored many differences.

After the tragic events of 9/11, there was a realization that in those moments of humanity, Americans were able to unite and share the same sense of sorrow and empathy. The people of the United States came together and strengthened its resolve to defend and protect the basic fundamentals of the country. This is what makes our country so great. As the late Dr. Martin Luther King has said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." I must also bring to light the overwhelming support of our global community in this time of tragedy.

As we reflect back upon this unfortunate event, we need to also consider the measures we have taken to make America safer. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, it is my duty to bring to the attention of the American people many homeland security initiatives that we have undertaken that have not been successful.

Osama bin Laden has eluded our forces for nearly eight years and the nation's infrastructures and borders are still vulnerable to attacks. Immigration has been an important concern that has resulted from these attacks and the terrorist watch list that the Transportation Security Administration has implemented is apparently inefficient.

Madam Speaker, there are many issues that still need to be addressed in order to secure our nation. It is my sincere hope that we as Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike will come together to expeditiously resolve these issues and help place the path of this great nation onto a noble path. I have great faith and confidence that we will be able to achieve this soon one day and our differences will be accommodated.

As we move forward, 9/11 is a day that will remain in remembrance. We have understood the meaning of sacrifice through the country's history of rebuilding and positive reform. The United States is the forefront of innovation and has the ability to reflect and learn from past mistakes. I pray for the lives lost on 9/11 and also for the protection of innocent lives from senseless conflicts and war.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H. Res. 1420. This tragic moment can never be forgotten and we need to do all we can in our power to prevent such a travesty from occurring again. We must remember September 11, 2001 to propel this nation and its policies to prevent and prepare itself from future disasters.

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, today we mark the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and remember the thousands of innocent men, women and children who lost their lives on that day, and we extend our sympathies to their families, friends, and loved ones.

We also honor the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of those first responders, law enforcement personnel, volunteers, and others who aided the innocent victims, in many cases sacrificed their own lives.

My personal experiences that day are vivid: going to a press conference in the Capitol at 9:30, moving fast to get out of the building when we saw the reports of smoke at the Pentagon. I went to the Pentagon two days later to thank the emergency workers and was touched by their resolve and strength to rescue their fellow citizens.

Over the last seven years, our Nation worked tirelessly to improve our Nation's security and to protect our people. We thank our men and women who serve in the military and put their lives on the line every day to ensure that we never have to relive those tragic events ever again.

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, today is the 7th anniversary of one of the most horrific days in our Nation's history. On September 11, 2001 terrorists attacked the United States and slaughtered our fellow citizens in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Fox News is calling this the "day that changed America" but I disagree. America didn't change, instead the evil attacks brought out the best in America.

As terrible events have a tendency to do, the terrorist attacks brought this Nation together. We have mourned together, been angry together, prayed together, indeed come together as Americans not as Southerners or Northerners, Midwesterners or East Coasters. It's an outlook that extends beyond national pride; we acknowledge that we as Americans are all in this together. None of us who were here on that terrible day will forget the spontaneous gathering of Congress on the steps of this great building that survived thanks to the brave men and women of Flight 93. Politics was truly brushed aside as we joined hand in hand, mourning the dead, celebrating the spirit of this great Nation, and vowing to do all we can to protect this Nation and her citizens.

The events of September 11, 2001 did have had a drastic effect on our Nation and the world at large. The focus of the country changed. Today, our Nation's ideas and her people still face a continuing threat from terrorists. Nearly every single day, the intelligence community records another threat or two against America or our interests. Hardly a week goes by that some terrorists somewhere don't reiterate their interest in attacking this great Nation. But our military, first responders and intelligence officers as well as alert citizens have remained vigilant and prevented further attacks.

Today as we remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and their loved ones, we also take time to honor and thank the thousands of first responders, the myriad aviation personnel from air traffic controllers to pilots and flight attendants who safely grounded planes across the country, and of course the men and women in our military and intelligence communities who have been engaged in a global war on the terrorists for the past

seven years. God bless them all and may God continue to bless America.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims and heroes on the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. As someone who lost more than 150 friends, neighbors, and constituents on September 11, my heart goes out to the families who lost loved ones. September 11th will forever remain a day of great tragedy for the United States, but it is also one of great triumph, as Americans came together and demonstrated extraordinary heroism, courage, and unity.

We commend the first responders who served on that tragic day and during the many difficult days thereafter. And, we honor those who gave their lives in responding so heroically.

September 11 served as a wake up call for our Nation. In the seven years that have followed, Congress and the Administration have worked with, and on behalf of, law enforcement, first responders, and the Intelligence Community to better secure the United States. Passage of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the PATRIOT Act, the SAFE Port Act, the Secure Fence Act, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, and the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 provided the Department of Homeland Security and the Intelligence Community with the tools they need to secure our Nation.

It is no accident that we have not been attacked since September 11. This is due to a number of reasons, including the dedicated efforts of the employees of the Department of Homeland Security, many of whom serve in the New York metropolitan area.

Make no mistake; we are more secure than we were on September 11, but more needs to be done. We will never forget the lessons of September 11th, and we will continue to work to secure the United States against radical Islamic terrorists who want to do us harm.

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1420 recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, remembering those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and honoring the heroic actions of our Nation's first responders and the Armed Forces.

On that tragic day, I was the Mayor of West New York, New Jersey and a member of the State Assembly. My district sits directly across from lower Manhattan and ever since the smoke cleared on 9/11, there has been a visible reminder to me and my constituents of the loss we suffered on that day. Everyday I am at home in West New York, I see the absence in the skyline. It is a constant reminder to me of the great loss our nation suffered on September 11. Hundreds of husbands, wives, parents, friends and neighbors did not return home that night. Many others did return home but still have to bear the burden of their losses everyday.

Madam Speaker, today I want to honor the memories of those we lost seven years ago today and those who lost loved ones. I'd also like to honor our troops that, since September 11, 2001, have been fighting so bravely abroad to protect this great country. We appreciate their sacrifice.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate the seventh anniversary of the most terrible terrorist attack ever on Amer-

ican soil. We remember those who suffered injury and mourn with the families who lost loved ones.

But we also remember the indomitable spirit of America that lit that dark day and the days that followed. The courage of the first responders and ordinary citizens who risked, and in some cases sacrificed, their lives to save others. The men and women of our armed forces who have worked honorably to defend our Nation from future harm. The millions of Americans who volunteered and supported efforts to rebuild New York and Washington and care for those who were injured there.

These individual acts of bravery and sacrifice remind us that even in times of fear and pain, the flame of liberty does not falter. In the face of grave threats, the world can stand together. And with the power of our ideals and the strength of our resolve, we can build a more peaceful world.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the individuals who sacrificed their lives on September 11, 2001 to protect the safety of our citizens and preserve our great Nation's freedom.

The world was forever changed 7 years ago on the morning of September 11. Nearly 3,000 innocent people were murdered at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and on a quiet field in Pennsylvania.

While we think back to the massive destruction of that day and mourn the lives lost, we will also never forget the shared spirit of togetherness that followed our sorrow. The countless acts of heroism and bravery on 9/11 gave birth to a dawn of unity and camaraderie.

We must thank our first responders who go to work each day willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to save a complete stranger. We must thank the men and women of our armed forces who defend our freedom and Nation. Because of their sacrifices, our Nation stands tall on the great progress that has been achieved by these brave men and women.

Since September 11, 2001, we have reshaped our homeland's defense and significantly improved our readiness to deal with terrorist attacks. The war on terror is a struggle for freedom unlike any other that our Nation has faced. We must always be as united behind our cause as they are behind theirs.

When America unites to defend the same ideals and virtues that our fathers, grandfathers and generations prior have defended, we know that she will remain a beacon of liberty around the world.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I would like to express my eternal gratitude to the men and women that defended our Nation 7 years ago and to the individuals who continue to protect us at home and abroad.

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the heroes who died seven years ago today in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in the Congressional district that I represented, Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

On September 11, 2001, I was in the U.S. Capitol, where the subcommittee I now chair was marking up the annual Defense Appropriations Bill. After the order was given to evacuate, I headed back to Pennsylvania. The next day, September 12, 2001, I visited the crash site of United Flight 93 in Shanksville, only 30 miles south of my home. We all owe

a deep debt of gratitude to those heroic passengers who foiled the terrorists' plan and saved the lives of countless Americans working and visiting in the U.S. Capitol.

In our darkest hour, Americans everywhere joined together in acts of bravery, compassion and hope. Our first responders worked round-the-clock to help those in need, and millions of us gave our time and resources to relief organizations like the American Red Cross. In the months following September 11th we found comfort and pride in each other. We were all Americans, and we were determined to move our great Nation forward.

Madam Speaker, our number one duty is to ensure the safety and security of the American people. Our brave men and women in uniform are fighting around the globe so that our children can grow up in a world absent of war and terrorism. We pay tribute to their bravery and to their sacrifice on this anniversary of September 11th, 2001.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1420, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001. Many of us were here in Washington on that fateful day and knew that our lives had changed forever.

House Resolution 1420 recognizes September 11 as a day of solemn commemoration. This resolution extends our deepest condolences again to the friends, families, and loved ones of the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. H. Res. 420 also honors the heroic service, actions and sacrifices of the first responders, officials and volunteers who came to the aid of the victims of these attacks. On this day, we remember the selfless valor that so many Americans displayed. This resolution also expresses our gratitude to the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have joined with the United States in fighting terrorism. H. Res. 1420 recognizes the service and sacrifices of the United States Armed Forces and their families who remain in the front lines of this fight.

Although we pause on September 11th to reflect and say thanks, on this day we should also remember that the forces that divide us from one another can never overcome the transcendent unity we have as Americans. As H. Res. 1420 states, this unspeakable act of terrorism "was designed to intimidate the Nation and its allies, and to weaken the national resolve." However, seven years ago in the face of this tragedy, Members of Congress stood united, shoulder to shoulder on the steps on this Capitol and pledged to work together to remember this day and honor the sacrifice of the fallen. Today we remember that pledge.

In appreciation of that spirit, in memory of the valor of the heroes and the fallen of that day, I urge colleagues to join me in voting for House Resolution 1420.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my House colleagues in support of this resolution recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance; extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families; honoring the heroic actions of our Nation's first responders and armed forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

We all will always remember where we were on that fateful morning of September 11,

2001, a beautiful, sunny and clear early autumn day in the Nation's capital when terrorists launched their attacks on America. It is etched forever in our memories.

We will never forget—those who died; those who survived and live with the scars; the firemen who ran up the stairs of the World Trade Center to save lives and gave theirs; the heroes on the plane in Pennsylvania; the families left behind whose lives will always have a void; the neighbors, the friends, the countless strangers who performed selfless acts of kindness we will never even know about.

On this solemn anniversary I always think back to the sermon the pastor of my church gave the Sunday after September 11 when he said: "Life is fragile. Evil is real. God is sure."

Life is fragile. It can end in an instant. The families of those who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in a field in Pennsylvania never thought that would be their last day to see their loved ones.

A woman in New York said, "We parted with a kiss on the Union Square Subway platform at around half past eight that morning. Jason was heading to his new job at Cantor Fitzgerald in the World Trade Center; I was heading to my office in SoHo. He must have made it to his desk moments before the plane struck the building."

Evil is real. We saw on September 11 that evil men did evil deeds to innocent people. Thirty people from Virginia's 10th congressional district died on 9/11. I went to the Pentagon that day and saw with my own eyes the destruction. I returned to the Pentagon this morning to join the dedication of the beautiful and moving memorial to those who died there seven years ago.

I went to Ground Zero in New York City two months after 9/11 and saw the devastation. I saw the notes written on the wooden railing of the viewing platform from family members. One said, "I love you Daddy" in a childish scrawl. Another said, "We miss you Dad. When you look down we hope we will always make you proud."

Evil is real, but God is sure. Psalm 46 says: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

Our lives changed on September 11, and in many ways are still changing and will continue to change. Clearly, we are much more aware of the threat we now face.

We had heroes on 9/11—those who lost their lives and those who tried to save them—and we continue to have heroes today. They are the brave men and women who are fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq showing the terrorists that we will take the fight to them. They are the thousands of civilian employees at numerous Federal agencies supporting those efforts.

Some of those heroes, like those on 9/11, have given their lives to protect our way of life. To them and to their families, we will be forever grateful.

I am reminded of a quote from President Ronald Reagan, who was such an optimist. He believed in America and for what she

stands. He once said in describing America, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we can always be free."

Indeed, we will always remember. And we will always be grateful that we live in the United States of America where, it has been said, unlike almost any other nation on earth, our identity is rooted not in blood, religion or birthplace, but in the idea of freedom.

Freedom has never been with a price. We owe our lives to each and everyone who has paid that ultimate price so that we can continue to live in freedom. And so today, we remember 9/11 and those souls who perished, and we also honor those who responded to the horrific events of that day, and resolve to continue the fight against terrorism and those who would seek to destroy freedom.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1420.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AS ADOPTED MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays be vacated with respect to the motions to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6608 and H.R. 6832, respectively, to the end that the motions be considered as adopted in the form considered by the House on Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, respective motions to reconsider are laid on the table.

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that