

of the firefighters and rescue personnel during this fire. As I speak, firefighters have contained 61 percent of a fire that has, thus far, scorched 160,357 acres in the Angeles National forest. Firefighters have greatly limited the loss of property because of their valiant efforts to beat back the flames. The hot, dry conditions of southern California, coupled with swift winds make fighting these fires treacherous. Add in the geographic landscape that the firefighters must deal with and you can begin to understand the risk that every firefighter takes.

For all of the work that I have witnessed and for all that none of us has seen, I thank you. Thank you for putting your lives in danger to protect those you don't know. Thank you for giving us all that comfort, knowing that you are there to help us in our time of need. And thank you to the families that must endure sleepless nights, wondering whether they will see their loved ones walk through the door one more time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 724, a resolution that honors the first responders who are courageously fighting the California wildfires and that pays tribute to the victims who lost their lives.

Hundreds of firefighters throughout the country have been working tirelessly in this effort, risking their lives to put out wildfires so that the lives of others can be protected. Included in this group of brave responders are 20 firefighters from the National Park Service in Hawaii, including William Akima, Jordan Barthold, Tessa Chieves, Andrew Christie, Christopher Derman, Raymond Eselu, Michael Ferguson, Brandon Figueroa, Sean Grossman, William Konanui, Elias Kuamoo, Michael Kyser, Paul Kelihoomalua, Jon Makaie, Nicholas Martin, Sky Mullins, Arnold Nakata, Dexter Pacheco, Jr., Russell Rosario, and Lowe Thomas, who have put themselves in harm's way to battle the raging wildfires. We are proud of your commitment and grateful for your service. We also pay tribute to the two firefighters who died, Captain Tedmund Hall and Specialist Arnaldo Quinones, and hope that the eleven people who have been injured make a full and speedy recovery.

I urge my colleagues to honor those who have served by voting for H. Res. 724.

Mr. TOWNS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 724.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 722) 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. 722

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 of Washington, DC;

Whereas the passengers and crew aboard United Flight 93 fought heroically and sacrificed their own lives by crashing the plane in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, to prevent terrorist hijackers from killing additional innocent Americans;

Whereas nearly 3,000 innocent men, women, and children were murdered in the attacks;

Whereas eight years later, the United States of America continues to mourn the lives lost on September 11, 2001;

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

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 has passed, and the President has signed, numerous laws to protect the Nation, prevent terrorism at home and abroad, assist victims of terrorism, 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, serve as reminders that the hateful inhumanity of terrorism poses a common threat to the free world and to democratic values;

Whereas the United States has worked cooperatively with the nations of the free world to capture terrorists and bring them to justice;

Whereas the United States remains committed to building strong and productive 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 America;

Whereas in doing so, brave members of the Armed Forces left loved ones in order to defend the Nation; and

Whereas many members of the Armed Forces remain abroad, defending the Nation from further terrorist attacks and continuing to battle al-Qaeda and the Taliban; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes September 11 as both a day to mourn and remember those taken from their loved ones and fellow citizens, and a day for the people of the United States to recommit to the Nation and to each other;

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

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

(4) expresses gratitude to the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who continue to stand in solidarity with the United States

against the international scourge of terrorism;

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

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

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

(8) calls on all Americans to renew their devotion to the universal ideals that make the Nation great: freedom, pluralism, equality, and the rule of law.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution pays homage to the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and recognizes the anniversary as not only a time of solemn commemoration but also as a demonstration of America's great resolve in combating terrorism. It extends our enduring and deeper condolences to the friends, families and loved ones of the innocent victims, and recognizes the heroism of U.S. service men and women who defend our country today. It honors the Nation's first responders and others whose valiant efforts were a credit to their country on that horrible day, and it honors them as they continue to help keep us safe.

□ 1330

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 attack.

In America's modern and fragmented society, collective memories are few. But each of us remembers where we were on 9/11 when we heard the news. We remember the days of unity that followed when we acted together to protect this country from those who were determined to bring us to our knees. We remember the efforts that Congress, the executive branch, and

the American people have made since then to protect our Nation from a real and ongoing threat. And even though 8 years have passed, we must remember that al Qaeda, while under pressure everywhere, remains a serious threat to the United States.

The very al Qaeda leadership responsible for ordering the attacks on September 11 continues to rally those who would do us harm and, along with its Taliban allies, seeks to defeat our troops in Afghanistan.

This is a time when we must transcend partisan politics and stand together to recall a moment when terrorists targeted the very symbols of American strength. Our values and our very foundation were under attack, and yet we persevered, and we will carry on the fight against extremists who seek to do us harm.

In this battle, the global realities of the 21st century require that we use not only our military but all of the tools available to us: economic, financial, diplomatic, and cultural resources to promote a better alternative to extremism and to protect our national security.

Mr. Speaker, none of us will forget what happened 8 years ago. We will always remember the victims of 9/11 and the loved ones who survived them. We will always honor the first responders who lost their lives that day and those in uniform at home and abroad who risk their lives today and every day to defend America.

We will continue to promote our founding principles of freedom and equality and ensure that the lives lost in pursuit of our ideals are never forgotten.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it has been 8 years since our country and the entire world stopped and looked on helplessly as the slaughter of innocents at the hands of al Qaeda unfolded before our eyes. And although we watched in safety, our fear and hopes were enmeshed with those who, without warning, were suddenly forced to fight for their lives and for those of the friends and strangers around them. It is a true miracle that so many escaped destruction, but we will forever mourn the thousands who perished on that terrible day. Our sorrow, however deep, cannot match those whose loved ones were taken away from them on 9/11. But we will always share a part of it even for those whom we will never know. The passage of years has not smoothed the deep impressions that we will bear for the rest of our lives.

But as Americans, it is not in our nature to resign ourselves to helplessness, even when facing seemingly impossible challenges. Instead, we instinctively rally and focus our minds and efforts on meeting and overcoming the threats that we face. We have always done so, and we have always won.

If there is anything useful that we could take away from this tragedy it is the unmistakable warning we have been given of the unseen dangers that we face in this new century. From that, a clarity of vision and a new understanding of the world has emerged. Over the past 8 years we have come to know our enemies. We have learned that their hatred of us, our success, and our freedom is too deep to be changed by concessions and appeals to reason. We now grasp the magnitude of the threat, and it is a global one. Other countries have come under attack and so can no longer deceive themselves that, once again, this is a menace for the United States to handle alone while they stand safely on the sidelines. We have uncovered their hiding places in caves, in villages, in deserts, in cities, in jungles, in back alleys in nations far away, as well as right here in our own homeland.

But it would be a mistake if our successes lead us to believe that the danger has passed. We have seen destruction descend from clear and sunny skies and know that it can happen again. To hope that our enemies will abandon their mission, to relax our watch, is to invite destruction.

President Lincoln said that those who are responsible for our Nation's course, which includes the Members of this body, cannot escape history. We have a responsibility to do all in our power to ensure that our country is secure and that America's promise for the world that generations have labored and fought for and died to protect remains whole and unbounded.

How we meet this reality will repeatedly test our national character. We are right to remember and mourn those men, women, and children who died on that day so sharply etched in our minds that it seems like yesterday. But this tragedy must be redeemed by a new understanding of our duty to our beloved country and to our fellow citizens and by what it is to be an American.

As long as we draw breath, we will remember those who, asking nothing other than to live their lives in peace, were brutally murdered by men without conscience or mercy. Let those of us who remain be steadfast, be courageous, and live lives worthy of their great sacrifice and thereby honor their memories.

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

Mr. BERMAN. I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, 8 years ago on September 11, 2001, this Chamber was empty, the Capitol was evacuated, the Pentagon was burning, the Twin Towers in New York lay crumpled, and almost 3,000 of our citizens were dead. We can never forget them, and we should never forget what we owe them.

Today we will once again mourn the families and those that are fallen, and we express our deepest sympathy to their friends and their loved ones. This is only right, but it's not enough. We owe it to the victims, to their loved ones, to the survivors, to ourselves to make sure that those who carried out this awful attack are brought to justice and to ensure that they can never again attack and kill our people here at home.

For too long the war in Afghanistan was the forgotten war. Only recently have we refocused our attention on the war on al Qaeda and the Taliban who sheltered them as they carried out their plot to murder thousands of Americans.

We can debate the best way to prosecute the fight against al Qaeda and the Taliban. For my part, the President has proposed a strategy for Afghanistan with which I agree. What we cannot do is walk away from the fight. We cannot allow the memory of this horrific event to be forgotten, and we cannot forget how important it is to bring those who caused it to justice.

Failing in Afghanistan brings clear and compelling dangers. Failing means the Taliban will once again control Afghanistan and permit their al Qaeda terrorist allies to operate from there. Failure means we let down those who died on 9/11. We can and we should consider how best to prosecute the war in Afghanistan. It's not a simple war, it's not an easy war. But for the first time, we have a real strategy. And for the first time, we are providing the resources needed for the fight. We have a new commander who is breathing new life into our effort, and now we must show that we have the resolve to give our men and women in uniform the time and resources they need to show progress in the fight against enemies who carried out this and supported the attacks of 9/11.

America was attacked on 9/11 by a ruthless, callous enemy. We cannot forget that. And we cannot walk away from the war in Afghanistan against them.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), our respected Republican leader.

Mr. BOEHNER. Let me thank my colleagues for yielding and thank them for this resolution that's on the floor.

All of us will remember, I think quite clearly, where we were on the morning of September 11, 2001. I think all of us will remember the victims of this heinous act that occurred that day. But while we today remember those victims and remember their families and we remember those first responders who put their lives in danger as well, I think we, today, need to resolve that we will never forgive those who perpetrated that attack and vow that we will continue to go after them.

I want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Missouri, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who understands quite

clearly that if we walk away from our efforts in Afghanistan, the Taliban will once again be in control, providing safe haven for those who perpetrated these attacks.

And while it's been now 8 years since that attack, our enemies are still out there, still attempting to injure Americans, kill Americans, both here and abroad.

I think it's critically important that we, as a Nation, never forget what happened on 9/11 and vow what many of us believe is important: that our number one job is to provide safety and security to the American people.

So I thank my colleagues for the resolution that's on the floor and honor those who gave their lives on 9/11 and think of their families and the first responders who continue to suffer today.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a member of our committee, the distinguished Member from New York, Mr. ENGEL.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the chairman for his yielding to me, and I rise in strong support of this resolution. And I want to reiterate some of the things I said before with Mr. TOWNS.

When I go back to New York every week and look at the skyline of New York, it will never be the same. The World Trade Center is no longer there, and as much as that pains me, it pales in comparison to the fact that we lost nearly 3,000 people that day, and each and every one of those lives was precious.

And what September 11 means to me, it means to me what the previous generation talked about December 7. President Roosevelt said during December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor, that was a day of infamy. Well, to us, September 11, 2001, will always be a day of infamy.

But yet it was a day that showed the best in people as well as obviously the worst in people. The terrorists who attacked us showed the worst in people. But the first responders and the people from all parts of the country who came to save people's lives and try to dig people out of the rubble, that's the best in people.

I want to mention that the New York delegation has been fighting for a health bill which would ensure that those who were first responders and others who came as volunteers at the World Trade Center saving lives, that their health needs should be taken care of by this country, and there are people who live in all 50 States.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate and mourn the lives that were lost at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and at Shanksville, Pennsylvania—and there were many people in my district who were killed, as there were in all districts in New York—we have to redouble our efforts to fight terrorism.

But I want to say that I was very, very proud that day to be an American and proud to be a New Yorker because the way the people of New York responded was exemplary.

So every day we hear more and more people who were lost at the World Trade Center. So I hope we can pass this unanimously.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), the chairman of our Republican Conference.

□ 1345

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, let me rise in gratitude to the distinguished majority leader, Mr. HOYER, and the minority leader, Mr. BOEHNER, for bringing this important resolution to the floor. Bringing a bipartisan resolution to the floor is perhaps the best way to commemorate the bipartisanship that followed the extraordinary events of 8 years ago this Friday.

I was here on Capitol Hill that day as my colleagues were. It was just as pretty a day as it is today, and the shock and horror of the images on the television screens, the smoke rising from the Pentagon, still are with me today and informs my service in this building, as it does all of our colleagues.

Let me say today's resolution is important because, as the Old Book says, we are to mourn with those who mourn and grieve with those who grieve. And we are also to pay the debts of honor and gratitude to those that are owed. This resolution today remembers those we lost that day, and this Nation should never forget the lives that were lost at the Pentagon, in the heart of our great City of New York, or in a field in Pennsylvania. So we remember them today, and we think of their families.

We rise to pay a debt of gratitude to all those who rushed in when others were rushing out, who filled recruiting offices, who put on the uniform of the United States and went in and confronted this terror where it all began. As we grieve and as we mourn, as we remember and as we pay debts of gratitude, let us also resolve to continue to do all that we can to maintain that bipartisan commitment that began on that very day and continues to this day to make sure that our Nation and our soldiers and those who protect us at home and abroad have the resources that they need to get the job done and come home safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) will control the remainder of the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege now to recognize the cosponsor, the main sponsor of the resolution, the majority leader of the House.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the distinguished chairman and gentleman from New York. I thank Mr. PENCE for his remarks. On many days, this floor is a place for heated debate, and that is, of course, as it should be. That is what

our Founders intended. But at this moment, as Mr. PENCE, the chairman of the Republican Conference pointed out, and as I will point out as the majority leader on the Democratic side, there are no Democrats or Republicans on this floor because we join to remember and mourn the attack on America, not on Democrats or Republicans, but on America and on its values and on what it stands for throughout the world: freedom and justice.

September 11, 2001, was a day of grief and of shock, of fear and of anger. But today it can and must be something more: a day to rededicate ourselves with memory and with service to the ideals that make our Nation great, as I said earlier, freedom, pluralism, equality, the rule of law, and justice. Those, no less than our buildings and our citizens, were the targets of the 9/11 terrorists.

Though buildings crumbled and the dead are lost to us, it is in our power to see our ideals remain strong and unscathed.

So on this eighth anniversary, along with the Republican leader, Mr. BOEHNER, I am proud to introduce this resolution marking September 11 not only as a day of remembrance, but also a day of resolve.

So many conflicting emotions marked this indelible day: grief for nearly 3,000 men, women and children murdered; heartfelt sympathy for those who loved and lost them; and an unspeakable pride in the first responders, firemen, policemen and medical personnel who served and, indeed, sacrificed on that day. Among the 3,000 are numbered 343 firefighters, 37 port authority officers and 23 police officers who died serving their fellow citizens as they ran into danger's jaws, not away from.

Alongside them in honor stand the passengers of the United Flight 93, ordinary Americans, who discovered their extraordinary heroism at a moment of crisis and who quite possibly saved this building, this Chamber, and the Capitol dome from ruin. It is my own view that that was the target of this third plane, to strike down that dome which here in America and throughout the world is a symbol of freedom, pluralism, justice and, yes, democracy.

We also remember the sacrifices of our troops, not only those who lost their lives under our flag, but those who make the everyday sacrifice of separation from family and home. Not all of us are called to serve as heroically, but in hundreds of small acts of dedication to our communities, we can emulate their service in ways both large and small. That is our resolve today. And along with it, we resolve to take the lesson of our vulnerability to heart.

We commit ourselves to defending America from whatever threats may confront it, with all of our military force, all of our diplomatic skill, and all the power of our moral example.

Our lives are limited, but we have in our keeping the ideals and truths that have animated our Nation since its founding, and that, we trust, will outlive us, outlive all of us, to light the lives of our children and grandchildren, and as a great-grandfather, let me say for generations to come.

They have lived through war, through economic crisis, and through the gravest attacks. Now, while they are in our keeping, let us defend them, serve them, live for them, and pass them down unharmed and undamaged.

All that, my fellow colleagues, on behalf of the 300 million people who have sent 435 of us here to represent their views and their aspirations, their courage and their commitment. Let us again resolve today, may we hold it for tomorrow and every day thereafter.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security, who lost so many of his constituents that day on 9/11.

Mr. KING of New York. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of this resolution today. And at the outset, let me commend the majority leader, Mr. HOYER, and the Republican leader, Mr. BOEHNER, for introducing the resolution and showing the spirit of bipartisanship that is so essential.

Mr. Speaker, September 11 is not just history. It is real. It is with us every day. As the ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, said, I lost approximately 150 friends, neighbors and constituents on September 11, and that is true of almost every Member of the downstate delegation from New York. In fact, I can't drive throughout my district without seeing sign after sign, street signs commemorating the police officers and firefighters who were killed on that day. So this was a real tragedy. It is a real tragedy that continues today in those families, with their friends and with their neighbors.

It is also an ongoing threat against the United States of America. The attacks on September 11 do not end on September 11. The fact is we have an enemy of Islamic terrorism, al Qaeda, which threatens us throughout the world and, indeed, here in our own country. In New York alone, there have been attacks foiled against the Brooklyn Bridge, Herald Square, against Fort Dix in neighboring New Jersey, against the synagogues in Riverdale in the north Bronx. So these are issues. This is a threat which is ongoing and it is real. We always have to keep our defenses up.

We have to thank the men and women of our Armed Forces who are fighting throughout the world, the men and women of our intelligence agencies, the men and women of the State and local police departments in New York, of the New York City Police Department, of the Nassau County Police

Department, and of the Suffolk County Police Department. There are more than 1,000 police officers dedicated to fighting terrorism in counterterrorism units. And again, it is a daily, daily effort.

As the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, I'm aware of many of the threats we have stopped, and we are realizing again how the enemy is never going to stop, and we can't let our guard down.

Also, in the interests of bipartisanship, I believe we should give President Bush credit for setting up the international level of cooperation with so many countries throughout the world and also for breaking down barriers with their own intelligence agencies and requiring them to share information with local police departments. It is not because of luck we haven't been attacked in 8 years. On September 12, 2001, no one would have thought we would go 8 years without being attacked the way we were on that horrible day of September 11.

Also, in the interest of bipartisanship, it is important for us, as Republicans, to stand with President Obama with his policy in Afghanistan, which is a continuation of efforts that we began against the Taliban and al Qaeda after the attacks of September 11. This issue of international terrorism is too important to allow us to be divided by partisan politics. We came together as a Nation on September 11 and the days after. It is important that we stay together.

This, as President Kennedy said in 1961, is going to be a long twilight struggle. But we won that Cold War, and we're going to win this war. We are going to prevail if we stand together as one, stand together as a Nation and realize that our enemy is attempting to destroy us. But if we stand together as one with our allies and with our forces here in this country, we can never be defeated.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution and commend the majority leader and the minority leader for their good work. We have before us an excellent memorial resolution. It is succinct and strong and truly expresses what I believe to be the position of the entire House.

As we consider this resolution, I would suggest that every Member take a moment to close their eyes, if they are in their offices, turn off the chattering of the television or the importuning of their staff and try to think back to September 11, 2001. It really was 8 years ago.

Remember how beautiful that day was. Perfect. A clear, crisp September day with a cloudless sky. Remember where you were when you heard that our Nation was under attack, when you first saw those awful images of the towers gushing black smoke and the Pentagon in flames. Remember the thousands of our fellow Americans who

perished in the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon. Remember the inconceivable heroism of the first responders who rushed into the flames and the chaos in order to save others.

Remember the defiant courage of the passengers on United Flight 93 who lost their lives but probably saved the most glorious symbol of our democracy in the world, the U.S. Capitol, and many, many who were working here on that day. Remember our shock and fury. Remember our national unity and the feeling of common purpose. Remember how the whole world stood with us and shared our outrage and our agony.

These memories are available to all of us if we take but that one moment. We all experienced these events, and all that's needed is to take a moment, to set aside a little bit of time and let it all come back. Why? Is it a morbid fascination with catastrophe? Is it merely to justify some policy or expenditure? I would suggest two other reasons.

First, memory is what we owe to those who were so unjustly murdered. We cannot bring them back and we cannot give meaning to the horrific act that took them from us, but we can remember them as our fellow Americans, as people whose lives were connected to thousands of our fellow citizens who still mourn them to this very day.

Second, I think we should take a moment to ponder the last 8 years. What have we done in response to that day? What have we learned? What do we still owe to those who died? And what we have used their deaths to justify? Have we made the world a safer place? Have we made our homeland more secure? Will the next generation of Americans face more or less danger because of our actions? Each of us will still have our own answers to those questions, just as each one of us remembers that awful day uniquely.

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

Mr. ACKERMAN. I yield myself another 15 seconds.

In this great Nation which gives each person complete freedom of thought, belief and expression, in which the governed choose who will govern them, the meaning of 9/11 and the consequences of that terrible, terrible, terrible day remain for us to decide, each man and woman for themselves. All it takes is that moment to remember.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia.

□ 1400

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the gentlelady from Florida for yielding me this time.

I would just like to say to my colleague, Mr. ACKERMAN, I really appreciate your remarks; I think they were right on the money.

I've heard a lot of my colleagues talking about how we should remember those who died and sacrificed their lives on September 11, and I think that's fitting and proper; but one of the things that I don't want to ever happen again is a repeat of 9/11. And for the past 8 years, we have not had another attack due in very large part to the Homeland Security people and to the CIA and to the FBI. We have intercepted information from terrorists and we've been able to prevent additional attacks because of the work they've done. And I think it is improper for us today, while we're remembering those who sacrificed their lives on that day, the firemen and the people on those planes, I think we would be remiss if we didn't think about the future and be concerned about that never happening again.

Right now, the Justice Department of the United States is investigating the CIA. And those people have been involved in stopping terrorist activity by going after the terrorists and making them give us information that would stop an additional terrorist attack. Today they are under scrutiny, and some of them may be prosecuted for doing their job. I think that's improper.

Everybody in America owes our intelligence agencies a debt of gratitude and Homeland Security a debt of gratitude for protecting this country for the last 8 years. And if we don't want to see another 9/11—and none of us do, and there have been some prevented like the one in California that was going to take place—if we don't ever want to see that again, we must support the intelligence agencies who are stopping the terrorists. And right now, the attack that's taking place by the Justice Department on the CIA only discourages those who do their job to protect this country from doing their job.

If you're a CIA agent today and you know the Justice Department is watching every single thing you do in trying to stop a terrorist attack, are you going to want to take the risk of being prosecuted because you're going after a terrorist to make him give you information that will stop another terrorist attack?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. We're demoralizing our intelligence agencies by doing this right now. It may be unintentional, I don't know, but we certainly should not be doing it. They were doing their job. If you don't agree with waterboarding, or whatever it was, okay, but that's something that's in the past. We shouldn't discourage our intelligence agencies from doing their jobs now. We want to protect every single American from another terrorist attack, and the way to do it is certainly not by attacking our intelligence people.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution expressing the sense of the House regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001. As the district I represent sits across from downtown Manhattan, my constituents and I are faced with a constant visual reminder of that day's tragic events.

As time passes, we must continue to commemorate this sad day. We will remember the innocent lives that were lost, the heroes that emerged from this disaster, and we will remember how this day forever changed our lives.

As new generations grow older, we must pass on the lessons of this day and its significance to our country. For 8 years, we have mourned the lives lost, and we have worked at home and abroad to protect our great Nation, its people, and the ideals it represents.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in remembering this significant day and recognize how it continues to affect all our lives. I thank my colleagues for introducing this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL).

Mr. McCAUL. I thank the gentledady.

Mr. Speaker, today we rise as Americans, first and foremost, to remember: to remember the victims of 9/11, the 3,000 Americans who were killed on that day; to remember the fallen heroes, the firefighters, the police officers who rescued so many lives and some who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

I remember watching the television on 9/11 with my daughter as the second airplane flew into the building and she said, Daddy, why did that airplane fly into the building? And by the time the second one hit, we all knew that this was no accident; this was an intentional act of terrorism, an act of war against the United States.

I was a counterterrorism prosecutor in the Justice Department. We saw many warning signs—the embassies in Africa, the USS Cole, 1993 World Trade Center, Ramzi Yousef, who almost brought the World Trade Center down that day—when they arrested him in Islamabad, many of you may not know this, but they found 12 baby dolls stuffed with chemical explosives that he intended to take on airplanes, part of the Bojinka plot to blow up 12 airplanes simultaneously.

The evil genius, his uncle, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of 9/11, who to this day the information we obtained from him has saved American lives, the most chilling experience I've had as a Member of Congress was to see Khalid Sheikh Mohammed imprisoned down in Guantanamo, the man who was responsible for killing 3,000 Americans.

As the 9/11 Commission said, the only way we will ultimately prevail in this twilight struggle is through good intelligence. We cannot tie the hands of the

intelligence community. We cannot threaten them with prosecution. We cannot have a global justice policy that Mirandizes terrorists captured on the battlefield in Afghanistan when the first words we say to them is, You have the right to remain silent. How in the world will we get good intelligence with that kind of policy?

And if I could close with an FBI quote before 9/11 that said, "Some day someone will die and the public will not understand why we were not more effective at throwing every resource we had at certain problems, especially since the biggest threat to us now, Osama bin Laden, is now getting the most protection."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Ross). The gentleman's time has expired.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. I thank the gentledady.

We will never forget that day. We can never make the same mistake again. We owe that to the victims and the heroes of 9/11. It is our most solemn obligation to first and foremost protect and defend the American people.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. McMAHON).

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 722 and to honor all those who were murdered or injured in the terrorist attacks of September 11.

As we honor that day, we are reminded that on that day we saw the worst in humanity and the best in humanity. And let us focus on the best, because when I think of that day, I think of people like one of the more than 300 people from my district who lost their lives that day, like Stephen Siller, a devoted husband and father of five who served as a member of the New York City Fire Department.

Stephen was on his way home from a tour of duty that ended at 9 o'clock that morning when he was on the Verrazano Bridge and heard the call of what happened. He turned his private vehicle around and drove back to the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, took all his gear out, put it on—because of traffic he couldn't get through—ran back through that tunnel to the World Trade Center, where he joined his brothers from the fire department, and others, rescued tens of thousands, but they lost their lives.

Each September since that day Stephen's family and the people of New York City honor his memory and bravery with a 5K race known as the "Tunnel to Towers" race that retraces Stephen's steps. In addition, Stephen's memory lives on in the good works the family has done by building Stephen's House and Home for Orphans.

So today I urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to not only honor those we lost, but to honor the bravery and spirit of countless people like Stephen Siller who made the ultimate sacrifice to save others.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), an esteemed member of the Committee on Appropriations who also lost constituents that day.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and I rise in support of the resolution.

Eight years have now passed since tragedy struck our Nation. In lower Manhattan, the fields of Pennsylvania, and across the river at the Pentagon more than 3,000 of our fellow Americans lost their lives. The events of that day remain indelibly etched in our collective memory.

Of those lost, 700 of the victims came from New Jersey, many from my congressional district, and many more from New York, other States, and 80 nations. For those of who us had this tragedy hit so close to home, I know that each September 11 brings with it a great deal of sorrow. Later this week, all of us will have the honor of attending a number of 9/11 remembrances, especially in New Jersey, the home of so many good people who died, as well as to honor those who sought to save them, our first responders.

My constituents remember that day every day. That day dawned like most days in New Jersey, bright and clear; crowded train stations in the morning taking people across the Hudson to lower Manhattan, parking lots packed with cars as they are most mornings. That evening, however, the scene was far different; trains weren't full, cars remained unclaimed in parking lots, and many families were left wondering what had happened to their loved ones. A single day that changed how each of us would think for the rest of their lives.

At one of those small train stations in Chatham there is a tree at whose base is a plaque inscribed: "We shall never forget our friends and neighbors who rode the rails with us that morning but did not return with us that night." That remarkable poignant quotation. We will never forget those victims. We will never forget those who sought to save them at the Pentagon, in Pennsylvania, and in lower Manhattan. Their bravery will never be forgotten.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York and the distinguished gentlelady from Florida.

This is a duty that we do not relish, but that we obligate ourselves to be able to be reminded of the lost souls of September 11, 2001. It changed the innocence of America, but yet we stood tall as we mourned with these families from far and wide that we are America that believes in justice and civil liberties and, yes, the Bill of Rights.

The Homeland Security effort was born during that time. I began to serve on the Select Committee and now the

Homeland Security Committee. The work we do every day should be silent work, but it is work to ensure that the Nation's airlines and airports, train stations and railroads and mass transit and everywhere we go protects the American people. It is a world that stands up against terrorism, but understands that America can be a friend.

So today, as we come together as a Congress, as we did those few years ago and stood on the front steps singing "God bless America," I rise today to tell those families we will never forget them. And it is our obligation to be diligent, to be responsive, and to be remembered.

God bless America.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the H. Res. 722. The legacy of the events of September 11, 2001 still resonates today. We will never forget the harrowing experience of the loss of more than 3,000 lives that marked this national tragedy. We will never forget the events of that day, nor those who paid the ultimate price. We will forever remember how the country suffered profound sadness, the likes of which we as a nation hope to never experience again.

Mr. Speaker, I recall vividly the intense emotions evoked as the attacks unfolded. The nation watched in horror as two airliners crashed into the Twin Towers and brought down the World Trade Center. That horror intensified as we witnessed an attack on the Pentagon, and a crashed airplane in Pennsylvania. Horror turned to anger as it came to light that the attacks were the actions of hate-filled cowards who had no respect for human life. I remember too, that in the aftermath of these senseless attacks, we came together as a nation and with friends from around the world united in grief and sadness. That moment transformed our country and the world, as the resolve of our nation strengthened and our principles hardened.

We remember the heroes from that day; those who ran into the danger, sacrificing themselves to save strangers. They were the brave firefighters, police officers, and civil servants who died in the service of protecting others. We remember the heroes from United Flight 93 who overpowered the terrorists and gave their own lives to prevent the deaths of countless others. We hope that their families can take some small measure of comfort knowing that Americans have made a permanent place for those heroes in our hearts.

In Houston, we mourned the loss of two of our own: Naval Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel Martin Caballero and Army Lieutenant Colonel Karen Wagner. Twenty-one year old Petty Officer Caballero was an electronics technician who had a bright life ahead of him. Forty-year-old Lt. Col. Wagner had a distinguished career as a medical personnel officer in the office of the Army surgeon general. Both lives were taken when United Flight 77 was steered into the Pentagon. Also Councilmember Toni Lawrence lost her dear sister to this horrible tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we also pay tribute today to those who have fought the wars born from September 11. In the years since that tragic day, our country has fought ardently to eliminate the enemies who would work to perpetuate the culture of fear and violence born from 9/11.

The men and women of the U.S. military prove daily that their commitment to protecting and defending our country is steadfast. Let us remember those who fought and died while serving the country, let us honor those who continue to fight, and let us pledge our unending support for our soldiers and their families.

As a Senior Member of the Foreign Affairs and Homeland Security Committees, I believe that we must continue to honor the fallen by working to prevent needless deaths. In the years since September 11, 2001, Congress has worked hard to make sure that such a tragedy will never happen again. In large part, we have taken heed of the advice of the 9/11 Commission and built a strong system to prevent future attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body to say that our work is not yet done. Our nation's rail and mass transit lines continue to be vulnerable. Millions of Americans rely on our rail and mass transit for transportation. Terrorist attacks in Madrid in 2004 and London in 2006 indicate that transportation routes continue to be potential security threats. We must not let another tragedy occur. As Chair of the Transportation Security Subcommittee—we are working to increase America's security.

Preventing terrorism at home begins with addressing terrorism abroad. We must engage nations that are susceptible to the influence of extremists and arm them with the tools to fight radicalism. That means increasing education, improving living conditions, and increasing the capacity to govern. The struggle against terrorism will be won in the hearts and minds of people around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to join me in supporting H. Res. 722. Let us remember this day and the tragedy that befell the nation by properly honoring the victims with our renewed commitment to America's security and Democracy.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. I rise in support of the resolution. It's important that we remember 9/11, those innocents who lost their lives, those who put their lives at risk while saving lives, and those who survived to grieve the loss of irreplaceable loved ones.

We have a responsibility to remember 9/11. It would be good, too, for us to remember the course of action our Nation embarked upon as a consequence of 9/11. We have a right, a duty to defend ourselves, but in the name of 9/11 war was waged against the people of Iraq who had nothing to do with 9/11.

At this point, let us remember our troops, too, and their sacrifices since 9/11, and the over 1 million innocent civilian casualties everywhere who also paid a price because of 9/11. We should never forget 9/11, and we should never forget the truth.

In our grief, we know the truth is our ultimate defense. The truth is our security. It is the truth which sets us free and the truth which keeps us free. God bless America.

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 11, 2001.—America grieves this day for the victims of these terrorist attacks, and for their families and friends. Our prayers are with them and our

hearts go out to those who have endured unbearable loss today. Our most hopeful thoughts are with those who have risked their lives in heroic rescue efforts. In this grim moment, we must be resolute in protecting the fabric of our democracy and the individual freedoms that make America a great nation. As we grieve, we cannot let terrorists win by turning the United States into a national security state. We cannot let their dialogue become our dialogue.

America must remain calm because such calm is essential to preserving our liberties. America must bring to justice those responsible for these cowardly deeds. We must be cautious about rolling back freedoms at home or placing blame in the wrong place.

America must continue to be a beacon of democracy for the world. Let this sad moment cause all governments and all people of good will around the world to unite and to move together to challenge and uproot those who have destructive goals which seek to create death and drive the world toward chaos. Now, more than ever, America must continue to be a force for peace in the world. We must not let the terrorists win.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, could I request of the gentlewoman from Florida if she has the time and would be willing to lend us one of her minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Yes, we would be more than happy to do so. We were waiting to see if some of the speakers who had reserved time would show up; but since they are not here yet, we would be more than pleased to give you some of our time, 1 minute.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Thank you so much. And if someone shows up and you need the time, I would be happy to make a unanimous request that that be restored to you.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to recognize the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) for 1¼ minutes.

□ 1415

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise today as this Congress commemorates perhaps the most horrific day in our Nation's history, that day being September 11, 2001. So many of us in New Jersey and New York lost our friends, our loved ones, acquaintances and people we never met before.

It's difficult to believe that it was almost 8 years to the day when our Nation was attacked by foreign terrorists and claimed almost 3,000 lives, including 411 of our Nation's bravest first responders. As a Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am proud of the steps that we have taken since that fateful day to make the American people safer, but our work obviously is far from complete. This is a mission we, as public servants, can never stop striving to achieve.

I am also proud that earlier this year we passed the aptly named Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which will designate September 11 as the first annual National Day of Service and Remembrance. On September 11, more so than any other day of the year, we should come together as Americans and find new ways to save our Nation, and hopefully that will spill over to the days after.

So I say to all of you that many of the wounds of that fateful day will heal over time, but that we will never forget the heroism we witnessed, the lessons we learned, the redemption the American people earned through our own strength. And so we pray that this never happens again.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I yield myself 10 seconds.

We have no further additional Members, so if the gentlewoman would like to close we will wait on the Speaker if she chooses to close as well.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Do you need an additional minute? I think we only have how much time, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has 2 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New York has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the day after that horrific event, I was back in New York. I went to the piers where the people were waiting to claim bodies and hear of missing loved ones.

There was a gentleman before this huge wall where people had posted pictures of relatives that were missing. And there was one gentleman standing there—it was close to midnight—all by himself, in traditional Orthodox Jewish garb, with a long black coat and large black-brimmed hat standing in front of a picture of someone who looked remarkably like him.

And he just stood there stone-faced. And I just went over and stood next to him as one of the firemen called him to my attention. And he said, without turning away from the picture that he was looking at on the wall, the missing person, he said, That was my brother. He is gone. He called me moments before the building collapsed. He said he knew what was happening, but he would not leave his workplace.

He worked in a station next to a young man from Puerto Rico who was sitting in a wheelchair and who was frightened. And he said, My brother told me I will not let him stay here to die alone. And they were holding hands when his brother hung up the phone. That was the kind of bravery we saw from Americans, all kinds of Americans on that fateful day.

Let us remember them and the sacrifice they made.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my good friend from New York and our chairman, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. HOYER and Mr. BOEHNER for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the 9/11 attacks on our Nation, we must also recall that it was an attack on our way of life. It was an attack on what we stand for, on what we represent. What is it that we represent? Freedom, democracy, liberty.

These are the values that distinguish our Nation, our people, from our

attackers, the belief in freedom, the belief in democracy, the belief in liberty. And as we recall this somber anniversary of this resolution before us, let us honor the memory of those whom we lost, the murdered, for it was a crime, and the heroism of our public servants, our first responders, our ordinary fellow citizens who were so extraordinary that day, who discovered the extraordinary courage of self-sacrifice on behalf of their fellow citizens, some of whom they had never met, including many of us in this building.

And let us resolve that 9/11 will not just be an anniversary that we commemorate with an interesting and touching ceremony, but that 9/11 is really a symbol of what America is about, how we dealt with that struggle, how we dealt with that devastation, how we dealt with that sorrow and what we said we would do as a people, that we would not let this attack go unanswered.

And to frame the events of that day as they should be framed, as freedom versus oppression, as tolerance versus hatred, as incitement versus understanding. And this is what we fight for to this day: for freedom, for tolerance, to make sure that we can just not recall the days of 9/11, but also honor the memory and what they stood for.

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

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield for the purpose of a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

(Ms. CLARKE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to those who have spoken in support of this bipartisan 9/11 resolution, H. Res. 722.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise in support of the bipartisan 9–11 Resolution, H. Res. 722, which recognizes September 11 as both a day to mourn and remember those that were taken from us, and a day for the people of the United States to recommit to the Nation and to each other.

Today, Congress pauses to reflect on the life and legacy of the men and women whose lives were tragically altered or cut short as a result of the violent attacks on 9–11–01.

I began my public life as a member of the New York City Council shortly after the attacks of September 11th changed America's perception on the world. From that first day, I have dedicated myself to the issues of security and preparedness.

As the only New York City member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am humbled at the opportunity to commemorate this day with my colleagues and victims' families.

We will never forget that almost 3,000 lives were lost, including 343 firefighters and 23 police officers, on that day. Their contributions and legacies will forever be honored and revered.

I salute the many World Trade Center and Pentagon workers who may not have held a corner office with their names on the door, but

were an integral part of our thriving economy and communities.

I salute the mothers, teachers, doctors, flight crews and other valuable members of our society that were taken from us on that tragic day.

As we prepare to commemorate that tragic day with several victims' families on the front steps of the U.S. Capitol, I offer my prayers to all 9–11 families and the survivors whose lives are forever changed.

I especially send my condolences to the parents and families of the children whose precious lives were tragically taken from us on that fateful day.

The collective sacrifices, strength, and compassion of these individuals and all Americans, as well as the fallen soldiers that we have lost in the fight against terror and the families they've left behind—all of whom represent diverse backgrounds and beliefs—remind us that our national resiliency lies within our ability to come together as a nation for the greater good of our society.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from Florida for her cooperation in this bipartisan effort and expression of the House.

I yield the balance of our time, 1 minute, to the distinguished Speaker of the House to close the debate, Ms. PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank Congressman ACKERMAN and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for bringing this opportunity to the floor to speak about the unspeakable horror of 9/11.

When we talk about this subject, Mr. Speaker, we are treading on sacred ground, a ground we thought we would never see in our country.

But as Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN said, it has defined us, how we dealt with it, and how we carry on afterward. One of the goals of terrorists is to instill fear. So not only do they take lives and destroy a community, try to destroy a community, they also instill fear as to how we will act upon the challenges that we have as we go forward. That did not happen with 9/11.

The American people rallied in a way that removed all doubt that we would not suffer that consequence. But it's the families of 9/11 who made the biggest sacrifice, that's self-evident. But when they turned their grief into action, working with the 9/11 Commission to help ensure that this doesn't happen again, they did a great service to our country.

In just a few moments, in the Capitol, we will unveil a marker of bravery to recall the sacrifice, in particular of the men and women on Flight 93 who died in rural Pennsylvania. We gather to honor their families, who will be with us. This is the day that they have chosen for that and to ensure that we never forget their heroic deeds, their bravery and the sacrifices of those individuals. They made a decision in that flight not to fly into Washington, D.C., perhaps into this Capitol.

Again, it is to those families that we owe so much, whether it was in rural Pennsylvania, in the Pentagon, or in New York at the Twin Towers.

Following that ceremony, we will go to Statuary Hall where leaders of both parties in both Houses of Congress will gather to recognize the heroes of 9/11, the firefighters and first responders, the rescue workers and all who perished on Flight 93, in the Pentagon and the World Trade Center on that terrible morning. It is in their names that we mark this day.

It is in memory of those who died that we, in the words of this resolution, renew our devotion to the universal ideals that make this Nation great: freedom, pluralism, equality and the rule of law. It is their voices that remind us not just of the images of destruction and despair, but of the unity we all felt in the wake of the attacks and of our common humanity and shared strength, of our potential to move forward as one community, one Nation. When we take inspiration from the memories of the heroes of 9/11, may this resolution rekindle a spirit of service and sacrifice among all Americans.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, like all Americans I still mourn the innocent lives that were lost on September 11, 2001. Though I was not in Washington, DC or New York City on that day, I am often reminded of the attacks when I pass the Pentagon on my way to the Capitol. And when I think of the thousands of family members that lost a loved one on that day, I admit that it makes me want to visit with my own children a little more often, play with my grandchildren a little longer and hold my wife a little closer.

On September 11th, 2001, America was exposed to a darker side of the human condition—one that is so fueled by hate and fear that it would drive individuals to come to a foreign land and dedicate themselves to studying the most efficient way to murder innocent civilians.

The 9/11 attacks were cowardly actions by desperate, evil men, but, like we've seen on other tragic days in our Nation's history, the attacks also shined a light on American bravery and heroism.

Our firefighters and other first-responders ran into buildings that were about to collapse, sometimes sacrificing their own lives to save others. The passengers of United Flight 93 became true citizen-soldiers when they chose to take on the hijackers and sacrifice themselves to save others, demonstrating to the world what makes us strong and good as a country.

These brave people showed that even in one of the darkest hours in our history, Americans were resolute, resilient and committed to see the light of our liberty burn steady and bright.

Let us remember that while these horrendous acts may have toppled over buildings and taken the lives of innocent Americans, they neither destroyed our Republic nor the principles upon which our country was built.

Eight years after that dark day, it is appropriate for us to take time to remember those that lost their lives in these attacks and those who gave their lives so that others would live. And it is equally important for us to acknowledge that despite these tragic events America has remained free, strong and committed to liberty.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this week we commemorate the eighth anniversary of the most devastating attack on our country since Pearl Harbor. The planes which destroyed the World Trade Center towers took off from Boston. The planes carried 142 passengers and crew members, many of them were our neighbors, and the catastrophe almost 200 miles south in Manhattan was also a catastrophe for victims' families and their loved ones and friends in communities across Massachusetts.

The September 11th attacks demonstrated that America's very strengths—its technology and its open society—could be turned into weapons and used against us. We have spent much of the past eight years trying to reduce the opportunities for terrorists to exploit our vulnerabilities; while we can claim significant achievements we must admit that the job is not done.

Two years ago, the Democratic Congress passed legislation to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, designating it as our top priority—H.R. 1. But much work to implement the bill's provisions and other needed homeland security upgrades is still needed, and it is now up to the Obama Administration to end the years of delays, obstruction and catering to industry's demands that was characteristic of the Bush Administration's homeland security policy.

I authored a provision in the 9/11 law to require the screening, within three years, of all the cargo carried on passenger planes to a level of security commensurate with the level of security applied to passengers' checked bags. The statutory deadline is less than one year from now, in August 2010. I am concerned that the system developed by the previous administration to implement the 100 percent screening requirement is facing significant challenges and must be quickly remedied by this Administration in order to comply with the law.

A requirement that I helped to insert into the 9/11 law contains a mandate to scan all inbound maritime cargo at its point of origin by 2012, unless the Department of Homeland Security chooses to extend the deadline for a particular port or group of ports because of technological, economic or other barriers. I believe that Congress included sufficient flexibility in the statutory requirements to address any delays in meeting the 2012 statutory deadline for maritime scanning that may have been caused as a result of inaction by the last Administration, and now the Obama Administration is tasked with implementing this vital security safeguard.

Since 9/11, Congress has enacted legislation to secure the aviation, maritime, rail, mass transit, nuclear energy and other sectors. But what we have yet to do is act on comprehensive legislation to secure the facilities that make or store dangerous chemicals. Instead, we have relied on the incomplete, inadequate and loophole-ridden legislative language that was inserted into a 2007 Appropriations bill behind closed doors that amounted to little more than a long run-on sentence. The Energy and Environment Subcommittee which I chair will soon act on comprehensive chemical security legislation that will close the loopholes in part by requiring each high-risk facility to assess whether it could use safer processes or technologies and provide authority to ensure that the highest-risk facilities do so if it is economically and technologically possible.

The upcoming anniversary is a time for reflection and commemoration. But it is also an opportunity to review the progress we have made towards improving the security of all Americans.

On this 8th anniversary of a terrible tragedy, I am taking time to both remember those who we lost and to rededicate myself to ensuring that such a tragedy will never again be allowed to occur.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 722.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. 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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 965, CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK CONTINUING AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. PERLMUTTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-249) on the resolution (H. Res. 726) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 965) to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to provide for the continuing authorization of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 447, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2097, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2498, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 722, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 447, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 447.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 0, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 690]

YEAS—420

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Bocchieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen

Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)

Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hereth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovich
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)

Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mittell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascarella
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello

Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman

Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Rohrabacher
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Baldwin
Boyd
Davis (IL)
Delahunt
Lynch
Maffei
McCarthy (NY)
McMorris
Rodgers
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Sutton
Tanner
Young (AK)

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Mr. NUNES changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE COMMEMORATING THE 9/11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence. The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.