

It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, “America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.” They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity, as embodied in the partnership between Colleyville’s public servants and Heritage High School in putting on this event.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our Nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WAR-
FARE OPERATOR MATTHEW
DAVID MASON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Matthew David Mason who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Mason was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Mason was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Mason is survived by his family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Chief Mason enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Mason’s family, friends, and teammates and

hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. SHELLEY
ROBERTS’ DECADES OF SERVICE
TO THE BIRMINGHAM COMMU-
NITY HOUSE AND GREATER
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMU-
NITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shelley Roberts, President and CEO of the Community House in Birmingham, Michigan, as she is honored with the Community House’s 2011 Community Service Award.

Ms. Roberts has had a long and illustrious career which has spanned both the public and private sectors. For many years prior to her career in the non-profit public sector, Ms. Roberts was employed as an attorney with Dickinson Wright, beginning as an associate and after much hard work, became an equity partner. After her time with the firm, Ms. Roberts went on to work in development for Orchards Children’s Services and the Jewish Federation of Detroit, before joining the Community House in 1998.

Ms. Roberts’ support of the Community House and its mission extends to well before she joined as its CEO thirteen years ago. Prior to that, she served on its board, undertaking many different responsibilities during her tenure, such as serving as President between 1988 and 1990, where she oversaw the renovation of the Community House and as chair of its Community Advisory and Child Care Advisory Boards.

Under Ms. Roberts’ leadership the Community House has been recognized by many community stakeholders for the work it has done to develop cross-cultural dialogue and foster a healthy, productive community. As President and CEO, Ms. Roberts has continued to emphasize the Community House’s Race Relations Diversity Task Force and 21st Century Leaders program; both are designed to foster cross-cultural dialogue. She has continued to strengthen its scholarship programs which provide students with the ability to further their arts education. Among the awards Community House has received are New Detroit’s Closing the Gap Award and the South Oakland NAACP’s Outstanding Community Award for the Community House’s support of multicultural programs which have furthered interracial dialogue and understanding. Additionally, the Community House has been recognized as one of the “101 Best Places to Work” by Metropolitan Detroit.

While serving in her professional role with the Community House, Ms. Roberts has continued to be an active volunteer leader in the community, investing considerable energy and time into supporting other community agencies and groups. During her volunteer service, Ms. Roberts has served on the boards of the Alzheimer’s Association, Common Ground and Planned Parenthood. As an active member of her immediate community, Ms. Roberts also

served as President of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Roberts’ most current volunteer endeavors include work as a member of the boards of Children’s Home, Big D and YouthVille in Detroit, as well as several organizations involving New Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that Ms. Roberts is being honored so publicly by the Community House for her many decades of volunteer service, not just to the Community House, but for her work with many organizations across Southeast Michigan. Ms. Roberts’ decades of work have undoubtedly impacted the lives of so many across the Southeast Michigan region and I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

TEN YEARS AFTER: REMEM-
BERING THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this week our nation paused to mark the 10th anniversary of al Qaeda’s attack on America. When we remember September 11th, we remember our fear, our shock, our disbelief, our grief. We remember images we wish we could forget. We remember loved ones we wish we could visit just once more. We remember how those who lost a family member channeled their grief and anger into a positive force for change.

In retrospect, we know our fears and our reaction to them were exaggerated. We allowed ourselves to become more suspicious and distrustful, more militant, more divided. And yet September 11th was not only among our darkest hours, but also among our finest.

I remember Todd Beamer of Cranbury, who, along with the other passengers on Flight 93, gave his life to prevent another airplane being used as a weapon against the Capitol or the White House. I also remember “the Jersey Girls”—Kristen Breitweiser, Patty Casazza, Lorie Van Auken, and Mindy Kleinberg—who along with other family members successfully fought to have the 9/11 Commission created. These men and women of 9/11—those who died and those who guard their legacy—remind us all what is great and good about our Nation and its people.

Yet I feel hopeful. September 11th was not only among our darkest hours, but also among our finest. Strangers guided strangers away from the collapsing towers. Across the country, lines stretched around the block of men and women waiting to give blood. For at least a moment, we saw our conflicts and rivalries as what they truly are: small and earnest differences among the brothers and sisters of the American family.

Tragedy has a way of bringing people closer together. It doesn’t minimize our differences; it magnifies everything we have in common.

I am hopeful today because I believe that, in spite of all the challenges we face, we still have so much in common. We still remain capable of such great things. As we remember our grief, I hope we also remember our unity—and realize that we are bound together as tightly today as we were a decade ago.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN
PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS
JARED WILLIAM DAY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Information Systems Technician Petty Officer First Class Jared William Day who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Day was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Day was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, two Presidential Unit Citations, two Navy Good Conduct Medals, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal unit decorations.

Petty Officer Jared Day is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Petty Officer Day an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Day's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

SUPPORT OF H. RES. 391, A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the tenth anniversary of one of the darkest days in American history, I would like to use my time to remember those we've lost, reflect on the lessons we've learned, and consider what we can do as a nation to ensure that an attack of this magnitude never occurs on American soil again.

Mr. Speaker, as America helplessly watched the terrifying images of thick clouds of grey smoke rising from the World Trade Center towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, emotions of shock, anger, fear, and tremendous sadness washed over the body politic. Never having experienced an attack of this magnitude on American soil before, the events which unfolded on 9/11 engendered a profound shift in the way we conceptualize national security and left an indelible impact on the psyche of every American citizen. This was a day that would have a profound impact on the way every American lives, and would shift a large amount of our country's focus and resources toward a new challenge: the Global War on Terror.

In the days after the 9/11 attacks, we were introduced to a man named Osama bin Laden and the organization he led, al-Qaeda. These previously esoteric monikers became ubiquitous terms synonymous with hate, terror, and anger. Yet, despite the dastardly events that unfolded on that day ten years ago, tales of selfless acts of heroism and tremendous bravery in the face of evil—indicative of the American spirit—made us proud and provided a ray of hope in the fog of uncertainty.

Ten years later, it is important to reflect on the lessons we learned from those brave men, women and children who were unjustly taken from us that day. My heart still aches for all 2,819 people we lost in the attacks, including the 343 firefighters and paramedics, 60 police officers, and those on board United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175. We remember the bravery of the PDNY and NYPD first responders who courageously ran up the World Trade Center towers, while thousands of others rapidly evacuated. We also remember the remarkable story of those on United 93 who attempted to regain control of the cockpit after their flight had been hijacked by a group of terrorists that pointed the aircraft in the direction of the building where I currently stand.

I would also like to remember those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives. My heart goes out to the 3,051 children who lost a parent, and to the spouses, parents and relatives of the victims. Just as we promised shortly after the attacks, we will never forget.

In the days and months following 9/11, we saw the true strength of the American people. It was during these times that people were able to momentarily suspend all political, regional, ethnic, and economic divisions to mourn and seek hope in one another. We healed as a Nation; we grew as a Nation. The petty differences that we so often magnify in our society were put aside and we focused on what we had to do to keep our country moving forward in the face of such adversity.

In the decade since 9/11—thanks to American vigilance, resilience, and resolve—al-Qaeda has been unsuccessful in carrying-out another attack on our Nation's soil. Several plots by would-be terrorists trained by al-Qaeda have been foiled by our Nation's intelligence agencies and local law enforcement, including a 2009 plot to bomb New York City's subway and a 2010 plot to place explosive devices on cargo planes entering the U.S.

Our military campaign in Afghanistan successfully overthrew the tyrannical Taliban and significantly hampered the power and mobility of al-Qaeda and its sympathizers. After years of dedicated service by the brave men and women who put country above self in our armed forces, America is safer and Afghanistan is now a fledgling democratic society. However, these accomplishments came with a price. Since 2011, the U.S. has spent over \$1.2 trillion on Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. We also paid for these wars with the lives of 6,026 of our bravest young men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. In my district, we suffered the loss of 12 remarkable servicemen. We remember Long Beach residents: Pfc. Stephen A. Castellano; Sgt. 1st Class Randy D. Collins; Sgt. Anthony J. Davis, Jr.; Sgt. Israel Garcia; Pvt. Ernesto R. Guerra; Pfc. Lyndon A. Marcus, Jr.; Spec. Roberto L.

Martinez Salazar; Spec. Astor A. Sunsinn-Pineda; Pfc. David T. Toomalatai; Pfc. George D. Torres; and Staff Sgt. Joshua Whitaker, as well as Carson resident Pfc. Daniel P. Cagle of Carson who were all killed in action.

As the troops in the battlefields of Afghanistan begin their withdrawal, we are reminded of the reasons why we entered the war in the first place: to exact justice on those responsible for the attacks on 9/11 and to eliminate their sympathizers' ability to conduct a similar attack in the future. In those two regards, I would argue that we have been extraordinarily successful. Perhaps the most consequential victory of the War on Terror came earlier this year when Osama bin Laden's life was finally ended by a group of Navy SEALs who deftly carried-out a covert operation at bin Laden's secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. I am extremely thankful for President Obama and his Administration's firm leadership in the effort to bring bin Laden to justice. The sense of victory experienced by Americans after the death of Osama bin Laden was so powerful that it seemed to carry us into a new chapter of the War on Terror, one less concerned with fighting the enemy overseas and one more concerned with protecting our citizens at home.

Therefore, I believe that now is the appropriate time to begin a significant withdrawal of troops from war zones in Afghanistan and other parts of the Arab world. Committing millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars to nation building abroad at a time when millions of Americans are unemployed and struggling represents a fundamental misallocation of resources. While keeping the American people safe should always be our top priority, more resources need to be focused protecting our homeland and educating, training and employing the beleaguered American workforce.

We have come a long way in the past 10 years, and we should be proud of the progress we've made as a nation adapting to a post-9/11 world. However, we still have a long way to go to ensure that an attack similar to those on 9/11 never happen in the U.S. again. As Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, I am keenly aware of the improvements that need to be made in order to keep the American people safe. For example, I represent a district that is home to the largest port complex in the nation. Each year, over 350,000 containers of cargo pass through the Port Los Angeles alone. These large shipping containers provide would-be terrorists with an excellent way to get hazardous materials into the country. That is why I am a strong proponent of working toward the implementation of a 100% container check rule on ports around the nation. This will ensure that cargo entering the U.S. is safe and will provide peace of mind to millions of Americans who reside near our Nation's ports.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that despite some questionable decision making during the previous administration, our country is stronger and safer than ever before. Although we still have a long way to go, the progress we've made in the last decade to secure our homeland from attack by unconventional forces should make everyone proud. Again, my heart goes out to the families of those who were lost during the attacks and to those who lost their lives fighting the perpetrators of those tragic events. While our country