

Americans, from declaring our country's independence to fighting alongside our allies abroad in the name of freedom and liberty. Americans, though, are also resilient. We band together, we pick each other up when we're knocked down, and we endure.

In Kansas, we are extremely proud of the men and women in our military that serve our country and defend our freedom and liberty around the globe. Their willingness to pay the ultimate sacrifice for their country—their true heroism—is known firsthand only to a small number, but is yet, sadly, far, far too common.

The 3rd District of Kansas lost two such heroes this summer as a result of combat operations in Afghanistan. Army Sergeant Mike Knapp was deployed out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord out of Washington State. He was killed in mid-May while bravely serving his country, only 3 days before he was scheduled to return home to Overland Park, Kansas.

Also, Private First Class Cale Miller, deployed out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, lost his life in early June when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was a 2007 graduate of Olathe Northwest, where he was a member of both the football and track teams. It breaks my heart each and every time I learn the news of a soldier who has lost his life so our country can continue to live in freedom.

As we remember this day, the 11th anniversary of September 11, Mr. Speaker, we remember it by honoring all those innocent lives lost on that tragic day. We also remember the first responders, the firefighters, and the policemen who charged the burning buildings to save lives, ultimately giving up their own in the process.

□ 1030

Let us also recall the steely resolve of American patriotism and unity as our country courageously responded against the terrorists responsible for this tragedy.

On this day, let us also honor and support all veterans who have served our country. We pay tribute to those fellow Americans who serve in our military, protecting us and ensuring acts, such as those of 11 years ago, never happen again. Our message of thanks is one that cannot be spoken strongly enough. To those who serve, those who lose their lives defending our country, and the families and friends who support them, we are eternally grateful.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day and for a safe return to Washington.

Bless the Members of this assembly as they set upon the important work that faces them. Help them to make wise decisions in a good manner and to carry their responsibilities steadily, with high hopes for a better future for our great Nation.

May they be empowered by what they have heard during their home district visits to work together. May the energy they have derived from respective party conventions be merged into a common sense of hope for our great Nation.

On this day, which has become a day of national mourning, help us to remember as well the renewed sense of national courage and resolve that we need to work toward a better future. May we all be inspired by the heroism of so many 11 years ago to be the best that we can be this day.

May all that is done today in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SARA ELIZABETH LOW 9/11 TRIBUTE

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day that will for-

ever be etched in our Nation's memory. Today marks the 11th anniversary of the tragic terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and the crash of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 innocent people lost their lives that day.

For one family in my district, the tragedy of September 11 hits close to home. Batesville native Sara Elizabeth Low was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11, the plane that hit the north tower of the World Trade Center 11 years ago today. Sara was just 29 years old, and she loved her job as a flight attendant.

The community of Batesville, Arkansas, may be small in population, but today they are enormous in heart and in remembrance of the life Sara Low lived. For 6 years now, the Batesville community has held a 5K run to remember Sara, and a memorial now stands in her honor at the junior high school.

Today, my thoughts and prayers are with Sara's parents, Mike and Bobbie Low, and all those in Batesville who were blessed to know her. May God bless the memory of Sara Low and all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, TRAGEDY

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, 11 years ago today.

For the Nation, September 11 marks the day that the course of history in the United States was changed forever. For New Yorkers, 9/11 was the day our great city suffered a grievous blow, leaving behind a hole in the heart of lower Manhattan, and an even bigger hole in all of our hearts.

While many of the structures destroyed or damaged by the attacks are being rebuilt or renewed, the families who lost their loved ones can never replace the husbands, the wives, the fathers, the mothers, the brothers, the sisters, and the children who perished. We can also never replace the brave first responders who rushed in to the burning buildings, giving their lives for others.

Not one single day goes by that families don't think of their loved ones who were lost, and we must ensure that 9/11's sacrifices are never, ever forgotten. Today, we stand together in honoring their memory and saluting their courage, which they so richly deserve.

Johnny, we miss you.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, 11 years ago today, our Nation was attacked by a group of Islamic terrorists who declared war on our country and the freedoms we cherish. The innocent civilians who were murdered by this act of terrorism will never be forgotten.

In order to protect American families, our country's military capabilities must remain the strongest in the world. Sadly, due to the President's policies and the looming threat of sequestration, our national security stands at risk. The budget reductions to defense will reduce the Navy to the smallest fleet since 1916, the smallest Army and Marine Corps since 1939, and the smallest Air Force since it was created.

House Republicans have passed legislation to save 2.14 million jobs by offering a replacement for sequestration. Unfortunately, the President has failed to show leadership and refused to act. It is my hope the liberal-controlled Senate will put aside party politics and work to prevent the weakening of our defense capabilities.

In conclusion, we will never forget the cowardly attacks of September the 11th on innocent civilians.

WELCOMING HOME SERGEANT MAJOR MARVIN L. HILL

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, as we commemorate the 11th anniversary of the attacks on our country, we should recognize the men and women who have fought so bravely for our country over the last decade.

This weekend, I had the honor of holding a welcome home ceremony in my office for Sergeant Major Marvin L. Hill. Sergeant Major Hill enlisted in the Army on January 18, 1978, and served this country in a wide variety of roles for 35 years. Most recently, he was selected by General David Petraeus to serve as Command Senior Enlisted Leader for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and United States forces in Afghanistan—a great honor and a very important job.

Command Sergeant Major Hill's numerous awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal for Valor, among many others.

Our city is proud of Sergeant Major Hill and all the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. I want to particularly express appreciation for all the noncommissioned officers who put their lives on the line every day and defend this Nation.

As we bring the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to an end, I look forward to welcoming home all of our brave men and women serving to protect our freedoms.

SEPTEMBER 11TH—11 YEARS LATER

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, we will never forget where we were on that fateful day 11 years ago on September 11. The images of two giants falling towards Earth will not only be remembered by those who lived through it, but will also be reborn anew with each generation of Americans through images of terror and countless stories of courage and sacrifice.

Today we come together to remember those who lost their lives on September 11 in New York City, at the Pentagon, and as part of Flight 93, and to reflect on more than a decade of a struggle to ensure future generations live free from terror.

We must also pay special tribute to our first responders and to those who have, since 9/11, donned the uniform of our Armed Forces and placed their own lives on the line to defend our country, and to the more than 6,500 who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

So let us continue to keep those who've lost their loved ones in our hearts and prayers, and may we never forget September 11.

□ 1210

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and I'm proud to represent the Nation's first comprehensive cancer center, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, an amazing place that continues to turn kids into survivors.

Thirty years ago, less than 50 percent of those with childhood cancer lived beyond 5 years of their diagnosis. Today it's over 80 percent. According to the Centers for Disease Control, over the past 14 years, childhood leukemia deaths fell by 3 percent in each year.

We know that cancer research saves lives. The only failure in cancer research is when you quit or you're forced to quit because of lack of funding.

Last weekend, our community held a fund-raiser, along with the St. Baldrick's Foundation, in memory of Anna Rose Leavoy, a young girl who lost her battle with cancer only 2 weeks after her second birthday.

We must recognize the urgent need to fully fund cancer research, to raise awareness for children like Anna Rose, and to find a cure.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF VIC- TIMS OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. I rise on this somber anniversary to honor the memory of those lives lost in the attacks on September 11, 2001. For 11 years, I have stood at firehouses and schools, churches and veterans halls, and heard the stories of bravery and heroism from that terrible morning that changed America.

New Jersey lost more than 700 residents in the attacks, innocent people who were targeted in an act of war upon the Nation. Brave first responders courageously initiated rescues with their lives in danger. These stories are not new but need to be retold as a new generation comes of age and is taught of the determination of our country.

The lives lost in the ensuing battles abroad have continued to try the foundation of our will. We have proven steadfast in the commitment to our values. Our freedom and liberty have been protected by brave men and women who selflessly answer the call of service.

No matter the challenges we face, we must remember that our Nation is truly blessed. I ask all Americans today to pause and reflect on the tragedy of 9/11, and please pray for the victims and honor their memory, and please pay tribute to the men and women who serve and defend us today against the dangers we still face.

May God bless them all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

LET'S GET TO WORK

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, on this day, as on every day, we should be working toward a better future for America. Yet, by almost any measure, days in session, committee markups held, bills voted on or signed into law, this is one of the least productive Congresses in more than half a century, by design.

Everyone knew last year times would be tough, but despite that, the House Republicans who control the schedule scheduled a year of congressional inaction. Their ideology dictates that Congress can and should do nothing.

There is work to be done. Where is the jobs agenda?

With just days left in this congressional session, let's get to work.

FACT-CHECKING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOBS RECORD

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)