

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.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, the Obama Administration has said that they have created 4.5 million new jobs in the last 4 years. But, my colleagues, CNN, along with another group of individuals, in fact, a host of other organizations, have really fact-checked this claim. They found that, despite a surge in temporary hiring for the 2010 census, there were actually 400,000 fewer—fewer—nonfarm payroll jobs today than when the President took office in January 2009.

But our job crisis is actually much, much worse because a large chunk of Americans have simply given up looking for work, and the jobs have not come back, and aren't the same ones that we lost.

Also, according to a study released by the National Employment Law Project, low-wage fields such as retail sales and food service are adding jobs nearly three times as fast as higher-paid occupations. But we need to add these higher-paying jobs.

The sad truth is that there are fewer people working now than when President Obama took office. And Madam Speaker, these are simply the facts.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF 9/11

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

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001. As we honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost that day, my thoughts remain with the loved ones of those who did not return to their families.

We also remember with pride the national unity that our country showed that horrible day and in the days that followed. In tragedy, we laid our differences aside and found common purpose. The legacy of 9/11 is our ability to say with certainty that no enemy or threat can change the values of our country and that which it stands for. I remain awed by the bravery and valor shown each day by our first responders and their brothers and sisters in uniform and by ordinary Americans.

In Tucson, we have a special connection to 9/11. Christina Taylor Green was a 9/11 baby. Today would have been her 11th birthday. She died in the tragic shooting on January 8, 2011, when she came to speak with her Congresswoman.

Just as on 9/11, we saw the spirit of the American people who came together in prayer, compassion, and unity on January 8, 2011, and in the days and weeks that followed. This is who we are as a people and who we always will be.

God bless all of us and this great country in which we are privileged to live.

FREE DR. AFRIDI

(Mr. ROHRBACHER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, as we commemorate the monstrous crime committed against America on 9/11, let us remember the plight of a heroic figure who helped us bring justice to those who murdered our fellow citizens on this day 11 years ago. I speak of Dr. Afridi, the man who risked his life to provide the intel our forces needed to locate and eliminate Osama Bin Laden, who now languishes in a jail in Pakistan.

There has been no resolution through this Congress nor public effort by the United States government to support Dr. Afridi in this, his hour of need. He has been tortured. His family has been attacked, and he is still in a desperate situation.

It behooves us as Americans to state in a unified and loud voice to his Pakistani captors, "Dr. Afridi should be freed." The continued incarceration of Dr. Afridi affirms to all Americans that Pakistan is not our friend but instead is a partner in terrorism of especially those terrorists who are murdering our fellow Americans. Our motto today must be "Free Dr. Afridi."

Dr. Afridi was asked why he risked his life to help in the efforts to bring Bin Laden to justice. His answer was that he respects and loves us, the American people.

On this 9-11 commemoration we need to express our outrage that Pakistan has incarcerated and tortured this hero in the war against terrorists.

Certainly, not one cent should ever be given to Pakistan in American aid, now that they're exposed for their evil terrorist deeds.

Free Dr. Afridi should be our cry on this commemoration of 9-11.

THE 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACKS OF 9/11

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

Ms. CHU. It's been 11 years since blue skies over New York were blackened with soot, 11 years since the Pentagon sustained its only attack in history, and 11 years since the heroism of our countrymen over a quiet field in Pennsylvania. Today, we remember and honor all of the lives lost on this day 11 years ago.

In the aftermath of 9/11, we mourned those who lost their lives. What had seemed so far from possible just 1 day before was ever present from that moment on, and we will never forget.

From the ashes came stories of heartbreak, like twins born on September 15 who never knew their father. For them and so many others, it's not 11 years; it's every single day.

As we reflect on this anniversary of 9/11, let us remember those 3,000 people, the fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and brave first responders, and the values of this country for which they lost their lives, our tolerance, our democracy, and our freedom.

HONORING THE MEMORIES OF THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, as we reflect as a Nation on that tragic day 11 years ago, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families who lost loved ones. Out of the horror of the murders of thousands of innocent souls rose the selfless heroic spirit of America.

Thousands of first responders rushed into danger to help their fellow citizens, total strangers. Thousands of warriors have paid the ultimate price to defend us.

The sense of national unity that spontaneously arose was something none of us will ever forget. We, the living, must pledge not just in words but in deeds to never forget.

We in this body, as representatives of the American people, must work to see our colleagues first and foremost as Americans and as members of a political party a distant second. To truly honor the principles that this Nation stands for, we must see this other side of the aisle for what it truly is: a 3-foot space that's not so hard to reach across.

Let's honor the memories of those who gave so much on and after that fateful day by working together to truly create a more perfect Union.

□ 1220

9/11 ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today we mark the 11th anniversary of 9/11. The tragedy that day still burns in our hearts, and once again, we renew our pledge to "never forget." The thousands who died and the thousands who rushed to rescue them truly deserve this moment of honor and remembrance; but today, there is also good news for those who became sick as a direct result of being exposed to the deadly toxins.

As part of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which Speaker PELOSI and my colleagues in the House and especially the New York delegation fought so hard to pass, the World Trade Center Health Program ruled yesterday that 50 kinds of cancer will now be included under the Zadroga Act. This important step means that those who have developed cancer, often years after their exposure, will have the opportunity to receive the needed care and compensation that they justly deserve.

On 9/11, thousands lost their lives, and thousands more lost their health because of their exposure to the deadly toxins. Many are sick and dying. I am proud that the Zadroga Act can now include their needs, and I hope that they