

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to join my colleagues in commemorating the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Twelve years ago America was dealt a blow, but in the years since, we have continued to rebuke the message of hate that was brought to our doorstep. What is more is that we affirm our core American values that were magnified in the days following those attacks.

We are still “one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” We are still a diverse nation of many races, religions, and ideas united under the same flag. Maybe most important, we are still at our best when we come together.

Every year we are reminded that though we are a strong and determined nation, we are still healing from the wounds we suffered that day 12 years ago. No amount of time can rationalize the senseless violence or bring back a loved one. It is important to note that we have brought many of the terrorists, including Osama bin Laden, to justice, and we have made great strides in ensuring that those who wish to do us harm like they did on 9/11 will be unable to do so.

Our men and women in uniform, the intelligence community, Foreign Service officers, and the people entrusted with safeguarding our borders, bridges, air and seaports and key infrastructure, have made great sacrifices to ensure our continued safety in a post-9/11 world and we owe so much to these men and women, and the families who support them.

Today, we join together to show the world that our Nation is united and firmly resolved to defend our freedom and safeguard our liberty against any enemy.

We also take time to remember those Americans who perished on 9/11 and to remember them and their families with a special prayer. We reflect on the heroism of the firefighters, police officers, medical workers, city officials, and ordinary citizens who gave their own lives trying to save others. Who could ever forget the images of firefighters and other first responders going up the stairs of the World Trade Center as everyone else was heading to safety? Each of us has been affected by 9/11. It is a day seared into the national memory.

We cannot forget 9/11 because the virtues that carried us through the days, weeks, and years have been with us since the beginning: 9/11 did not teach firefighters and police to sacrifice, nor did it teach unity among neighbors. It did not teach empathy toward strangers or compassion toward friends.

Rather, these quintessential American virtues were with us all along; 9/11 just put them under a spotlight for all to see. On 9/11 we showed the world a brand of resilience, compassion, and strength that could only be “made in America”.

And so, 12 years after the most heinous attacks in our Nation’s history,

we stand tall. We stand tall, not weighed down by the gravity of 9/11 but made stronger by it. We remain united in our diversity like no other nation on Earth, “one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Mr. CHIESA. Mr. President, I vividly recall, as do most Americans, exactly where I was 12 years ago this morning. My son, Al, who had only recently celebrated his third birthday, was beginning his very first day at preschool. It was a big day for my wife Jenny and me, filled with that mixture of excitement and trepidation that is familiar to all young parents.

Shortly after waving goodbye to Al, we heard the shocking news—an airplane had hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

As a native New Jerseyan, raised in the shadow of the Twin Towers, I could picture the scene in my mind’s eye.

My first assumption was that a small plane—perhaps one of the sightseeing planes that provided visitors with a bird’s-eye view of the wonders of Lower Manhattan and the harbor—had somehow flown off course into the building.

Less than 20 minutes later, however, when the second plane hit, I knew, as we all did, that this was no accident. America was under attack. And as the morning unfolded and the horror increased—the Pentagon was hit, the towers fell, United flight 93 was brought to the ground near Shanksville, PA—my thoughts turned to faith and family.

I thought of my son—young and innocent, starting his very first day in school—and I realized the world that existed when we dropped him off that morning had changed.

I thought of so many friends and neighbors who might very well have been on the plane that flew out of Newark that morning or in those proud buildings that had been reduced to rubble. I hoped and prayed that they were safe.

I thought of the people who had surely lost their lives in the attacks—in numbers more than any of us could bear, as Mayor Giuliani so eloquently put it—and prayed for them and their families.

And as the day drew to its awful conclusion, I knew that for so many, the terrible anguish of this day was just beginning, and the reminders of that were everywhere: the children whose parents would never arrive to pick their children up from school, the empty place at the dinner table, the gaping hole in the hearts of those who loved those who perished.

Twelve years later, the passage of time has, for many, helped to bring some measure of healing. But the scars remain, and they will never completely fade away.

So today we remember, as we do every year and as we should every day, all those who lost their lives, both in the terrorist attacks themselves and also on foreign fields of battle in the

defense of our freedom and our way of life.

We remember today, as we do every year and as we should every day, all those who were injured in the attacks and on the battlefield.

We remember today, as we do every year and as we should every day, all those who responded to the attacks with bravery and determination and many of whom still struggle with the aftermath of their courageous actions.

And we remember today, as we do every year and should every day, all those who lost friends, colleagues, and family members in the attacks and in the years since. Their suffering is our suffering and we must never forget that.

Today is also a day for renewal, for renewing the sense of purpose that united our nation in the aftermath of the attacks, for renewing the spirit of cooperation that made it possible for our country to move forward, both through individual acts of courage, kindness, and compassion and through acts of governance that helped us meet the challenges we faced, and for renewing our determination to keep America safe while also safeguarding our liberties.

Twelve years ago today, when Jenny and I dropped off our son for his very first day of school—he is, by the way, now a high school freshman—we could never have imagined how much the world would change before he had even settled in to his new preschool routine.

But although so much has changed, one thing remains constant: America, is, as she always had been, a beacon of hope to the world. No act of terror—no matter how brutal—will ever diminish the bright, shining light of the American spirit.

REMEMBERING NICOLAE GHEORGHE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on August 8, Nicolae Gheorghe, one of the leading figures of the Romani civil rights movement, passed away. He was devoted to improving the situation of Roma, ultimately playing a pivotal role on the international stage and especially within the OSCE. Gheorghe lived an extraordinary life and will be long remembered for his singular contribution to the advancement of human rights.

Nicolae Gheorghe was born in 1946 in Romania during the aftermath of the fascist regime led by Marshall Ion Atonescu. His mother had narrowly escaped the mass deportations of 25,000 Roma planned and implemented by the Antonescu regime.

Members of the Helsinki Commission first met Nicolae Gheorghe when Senator Dennis DeConcini and Representative STENY HOYER, then-Chairman and Cochairman, led a delegation to Romania in April 1990. At that time, Gheorghe was emerging as one of the clearest and most compelling voices sounding the alarm about the deplorable situation of Roma. Although the

fall of communism in Central Europe ushered in an era of democratization, it also gave free rein to old bigotry against Roma. In fact, only a few months after that visit, police efforts to remove demonstrators from Bucharest degenerated into brutal attacks on the offices of opposition papers, opposition leaders' homes, and members of the Romani minority.

At almost the same time, the OSCE participating States were meeting in Copenhagen negotiating what would become one of the most ambitious agreements of the Helsinki process: the seminal 1990 Copenhagen Document. I was part of a delegation Representative HOYER led to that historic meeting where we raised our concerns about religious and ethnic minorities directly with the delegation from Romania.

It was also in Copenhagen where Nicolae Gheorghe pressed—successfully—for the adoption of the first reference in any international human rights agreement to the specific problems faced by Roma. The U.S. delegation to that meeting, headed by the late Ambassador Max Kampfleben, helped secure the inclusion of that text in the final document.

But in the context of post-Communist economic and political transition, Roma became targets of ethnically motivated attacks. In Romania, dozens of pogroms against Roma were carried out between 1990 and 1997, prompting Gheorghe and others to found Romani CRISS in 1993. The name is a Romanian acronym for Center for Social Intervention and Studies but also a play on the Romani word “*kris*,” which is a kind of council of elders. In the 1990s, he worked with the New Jersey-based Project on Ethnic Relations and served on the board of the European Roma Rights Center.

He also brought his concerns to the United States. In 1994, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, International Organizations, and Human Rights, chaired by Representative Tom Lantos, convened the first hearing before Congress on the situation of Roma. Gheorghe, joined by Romani activists Ian Hancock, Andrzej Mirga, and Klara Orgovanova, testified, along with Livia Plaks of the Project on Ethnic Relations.

Gheorghe argued that anti-Roma attitudes and behaviors could serve as a barometer to gauge the success of countries building democratic institutions, the rule of law, and “the consolidation of civil movements and associations and societies and states deeply distorted by the decades of pro-fascist, authoritarian and communist totalitarian regimes.”

He presciently surveyed the scope and implications of anti-Roma manifestations including in Bosnia, Germany, the Czech and Slovak Republics, and Romania. “[T]he most important assistance which can be brought to or sent to our region is the rule of law, the breeding of democratic institu-

tions, and careful implementation of individual human rights.” Gheorghe testified at Helsinki Commission briefings and hearings in 2002 and 2006.

Nicolae Gheorghe also became a fixture at OSCE human rights meetings—first in his capacity as an NGO, then as the first senior adviser on Romani issues for the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. In whatever capacity he worked, he was a relentless advocate for the human rights of Romani people.

His appointment coincided with the deterioration of the situation in Kosovo, the NATO air campaign against Milosevic’s Serbia, and the subsequent deployment of a large OSCE mission to Kosovo. As a consequence of developments in the Balkans, he became immediately engaged on issues relating to the displacement of Kosovo Roma to Macedonia and elsewhere. Throughout his tenure with the OSCE, which lasted through 2006, his work was driven by the need for crisis management stemming from acts of violence and other extreme manifestations of prejudice against Roma—not only in the Balkans but elsewhere in the OSCE region as well.

In his 2006 testimony before the Helsinki Commission, he observed that international organizations had largely focused on the situation of Roma in Central Europe, neglecting Western countries such as Greece, France, Spain, and Italy. “I don’t think that Europe for the time being realizes the depth of the racism and racist attitudes in its structures, [in] Europe as a whole.” The mass fingerprinting of Roma in Italy in 2008 and the expulsions of Roma from France in 2010 would illustrate that Gheorghe had spoken with typical insight.

I wish that I could say Nicolae Gheorghe’s work to advance the human rights of Roma was complete. Clearly, it is not. Each day, it must be carried on by the many people he encouraged and a new generation of activists. Toward that end, our load is lighter because of the burdens he carried, our goals are nearer because of the distance he traveled, and we are inspired by his legacy.

REMEMBERING RANDY UDALL

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to again thank my colleagues for their kind words on the passing of Randy Udall. Their condolences, and those of so many people who knew and loved Randy, have been a great source of comfort to our family. I would also like to share with them Randy’s obituary, published in the *Aspen Times*, as we remember Randy and celebrate his life.

I ask unanimous consent that the obituary be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

James “Randy” Udall, a native son of the American West, died June 20, 2013, on the eve

of the Summer Solstice, doing what he loved most, hiking in the remote Wind River Mountains. He was 61 years old. The cause of his death: natural.

Randy was both a visionary and a pragmatist. Known for the size of his heart and the breadth of his wild mind, Randy Udall was all about energy: physical and mental. His expertise on domestic and international energy sustainability was singular, both as a free-lance writer and as an advocate. In 1984, he co-founded the nonprofit Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE) in Carbondale, Colorado, where he served for 13 years as director. CORE’s partnerships with electric utilities and local governments led to Colorado’s first solar energy incentive program, the world’s first Renewable Energy Mitigation Program and some of the most progressive green power purchasing programs in America.

In 2005, Randy co-founded the Association for the Study of Peak Oil-USA to track the shifting balance between world oil supply and depletion. He was a brilliant communicator, owned by no one, plain-spoken, humble, and nuanced. He was a celebrated speaker engaging audiences world-wide on the complexities of energy development. He was the rare thought leader who put his thoughts into action. Randy’s home in Carbondale was retrofitted with solar panels that he often shared would keep 300,000 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere over 20 years. The energy bill on his 2,000-square-foot home was a mere \$300 per year.

Randy Udall told hard truths: “We have been living like gods,” he often said. “Our task now is to learn how to live like humans. Our descent will not be easy.”

Randy Udall was born on October 29, 1951, in Tucson, Ariz., to former Arizona Congressman Morris K. Udall and Patricia Emery Udall. His education was informed by Prescott College and the University of Denver, but he graduated from neither. He subscribed to what John Wesley Powell called “a home-grown education” driven by place and fueled by curiosity. His path of inquiry was grounded in auto mechanics, carpentry, a commitment to writing, environmental studies, and advocacy. He also worked for Outward Bound as a wilderness instructor. Instinct, intuition, and experience became the bedrock of his uncommon wisdom.

Randy belonged to a respected political family. Alongside the distinguished political career of his father, he was the nephew of Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, from whom he drew great inspiration. His eldest brother Mark Udall and his cousin Tom Udall currently represent Colorado and New Mexico in the U.S. Senate. With his usual wit and candor, he often apologized for politicians in the West, but he never abandoned his family’s commitment to public service and embrace of the open space of democracy.

In the 1980s, Randy reported on the Sanctuary Movement for the Tucson Citizen, riding the underground railroad and listening to the plight of the refugees it carried from Central America to the United States. He was the first reporter to break the story of the Tucson Sanctuary Movement nationally and garner support and justice for them. Through his writing, Randy continually sought to give voice to others and to the land. “I love forms beyond my own, and regret the borders between us,” wrote Loren Eiseley, one of Randy’s favorite authors.

In 1987, Randy co-authored “Too Funny To Be President” with his father, Mo Udall, and Bob Neuman. And in 1993, he collaborated with his uncle Stewart Udall and renowned photographer David Muench on the book, “National Parks of America.”