

We were united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that has made America the greatest country in the history of the world.

Later that day, I joined scores of my colleagues on the East Steps of the Capitol where we sang 'God Bless America', lit candles, held hands, and prayed for our country and its leaders.

In the days ahead, I travelled to New York City to visit first responders and victims still recovering bodies and rescuing victims of the attacks and became a charter member of the Committee on Homeland Security to ensure that 9-11 never again happens in America.

A united America can never be defeated as Operation Enduring Freedom showed.

The brave and valiant armed forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan, making good on the pledge that "[w]hether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done."

And though he ran and hid for almost ten years, Osama bin Laden could not hide forever and evade the long arm of American justice, which, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, caught up with him on May 2, 2011.

Madam Speaker, Americans take care of their own.

Americans cherish freedom. Americans cherish liberty.

And Americans want peace.

Not just for themselves alone, but all persons in every corner of the globe.

Madam Speaker, ensuring that America is safe and secure and protected from another attack on American soil is the least we owe to the heroic passengers on Flight 93 and to the brave firefighters of the FDNY and officers of the NYPD and the officers and civilians we lost in the Pentagon who gave faithful service to our nation.

Americans want their country to remain safe, free, and invulnerable to another cowardly attack like the one we witnessed eighteen years ago today.

We owe that much to the Americans who lost and gave their lives.

We owe it to them to ensure that their children and loved ones will never again experience such pain, suffering, and loss.

We can do this. We must do this. After all, we are Americans.

IN REMEMBRANCE ON THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of all the lost lives and families of 9/11, on the 18th anniversary with a poetic tribute penned by Albert Carey Caswell. Sadly, we are living daily with the second wave on 9/11 with the loss of all those magnificent responders who stayed on to help recover our lost loved ones. Our prayers go out to them and their families on this day.

And on this day . . .
We gather and pray, forgetting not all those who've paid . . .

But, with their most precious lives on that day, and continue to in every way . . .

With the price so grave . . .
And for all of their loved ones living and the lost,
who now lie in such cold quiet graves the cost . . .

And the ones whose precious bodies we could not bury nor save . . .
Oh how the tears come our way,
wishing somehow to each heart remorse convey . . .

Our thoughts and prayers go with them in their pain each day . . .

As we add new names to this list that which evil gave . . .

With more and more Heroes going to their graves . . .

All in the aftermath of 9/11 and in its second wave . . .

Were all those heroes who dug in deep,
to find our most precious loved ones while in the midst this evil speaks . . .

All so their loved ones could find solace,
and bury their loved ones in the earth deep down beneath . . .

On this day to stop and pray to these hearts which speak . . .

And give thanks and remembrance for all and each . . .

The families who can not be repaid . . .

God Is Good and God Is Great, all in such magnificent heroes he creates . . .

For such selflessness there can be no greater gift then this . . .

Then, all of those Gotham Hearts who stood so courageously on that day we miss . . .

And laid down their lives illuminating our souls in the light of hope's golden rays . . .

With rays of hope and faith and courage and glory to our children we must convey . . .

And now all of the new battles which lie ahead,
for all of those who stayed on the site who too now blood must shed . . .

Trying to give closure to the families, so their loved ones could be lowered into such solemn graves . . .

As its for them and all of their loved ones in this new battle pray . . .

And for all those innocents who died just because they went to work that day . . .

We Can Not and Will Never Forget . . .

As like them too we must face each new day . . .

With the determination and grit and courage as they . . .

To live our lives but For The Greater Good each day . . .

As we have built in their honor this magnificent shrine upon hearts which stays . . .

Which rises out of the ashes of hate in its light up towards heaven in time . . .

So very splendid and so very fine . . .

That which now will so surely stand the test of time . . .

So that from generation to generation all of our children will find . . .

The answer to winning the battle against evil in its darkest of times . . .

Goodness, Evil, Darkness, Light, those brave hearts who evil must fight . . .

Who bring their light, together enjoined as we battle on into that dark night . . .

And that The Darkness is no match for The Light . . .

As we pray our souls be filled with such hope and such faith as they so bright . . .

Knowing full well that time does not heal all,

only up in Heaven when out to us our love ones call . . .

When, once again together again . . .

Let us find peace, let us find rest, let us mend with our Lord us to bless . . .

And watch over all of the families in their battle in the second wave 9/11's direst . . .

And all of the families who lost loved ones and gave all in death . . .
As we thank and remember all of America's Best . . .

ON THIS DAY . . .
In memory of all those beautiful people who lost their lives and their loved ones on 9/11, and still lose more today in

the second wave of 9/11's tragedy. May God Bless them all and hold them in palm of his hands . . .

WE WILL NEVER FORGET!

TRIBUTE TO J'S MAINTENANCE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Waldheim family upon the 50th anniversary of J's Maintenance in Glendale, California.

For over a half a century, J's Maintenance has provided clients with superb commercial janitorial services and is an outstanding example of a family-owned business that cares about their customers' satisfaction, their staff's wellbeing and their community.

Ed and Linda Waldheim bought the small janitorial service company in 1969 and re-built it essentially from the ground up. They have had clients ranging from individual residences to large companies like J.C. Penney and Sears. Their son, Chris Waldheim, currently runs the company. Under Chris's leadership, the company has set a great example by conducting their business in an environmentally friendly way, from installing solar panels on their roof to using green chemicals for their cleaning services. Additionally, J's Maintenance has implemented a recycling program that has saved thousands of pounds of waste from entering our landfills.

In addition to their business success, the Waldheim family also exemplifies what it means to be civic leaders. The family supports Relay for Life, which raises funds for the American Cancer Society to conduct research and provide services to patients while in treatment and are avid supporters of the Crescenta Valley and Montrose Chambers of Commerce. J's Maintenance has also invested in the local schools in the Crescenta Valley area by sponsoring activities like Clark Magnet High School's robotics team and fundraising for Crescenta Valley High School's prom. Most notably, however, is Chris's support for and involvement with the YMCA of the Foothills. He served as a board member for several years, holding leadership positions, chaired the Community Support Campaign for three years, and he and his family continuously support the YMCA's events. In 2011, Chris was awarded the Pat Aho Volunteer of the Year Award for his long-lasting involvement with the YMCA.

Our community has greatly benefited from the hard work and dedication of the Waldheim family and their business, J's Maintenance. I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating the Waldheim family upon the 50th anniversary of J's Maintenance.

RECOGNIZING D. M. BOWMAN'S 60 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize D. M. Bowman, Inc., a transportation and logistics company based in Williamsport, Maryland. This company has used innovation and work ethic to make its mark on the trucking world. In 1996, D. M. Bowman Founder and Chairman Don Bowman designated this week as Driver Appreciation Week, an annual event celebrating the hard work drivers do every day. This year, I am honored to highlight the achievements of his incredible company and recognize our nation's truck drivers, who provide all Americans a great service.

This year, D. M. Bowman is celebrating 60 years in business. Throughout this time, the company has been an invaluable source of economic development and jobs for Maryland's Sixth District. Although the business began as a one-man operation, due to Don Bowman's determination and expertise, it quickly began to pick up speed. Now, D. M. Bowman has an exceptional fleet of 382 power units and 8 terminals on the east coast.

As the company grew, so did its outreach efforts. Today, D. M. Bowman works with Hagerstown Community College Driving School to help individuals who obtain their commercial driver's licenses find new career opportunities.

On behalf of the residents of Maryland's Sixth Congressional District, I thank D. M. Bowman and its dedicated team for all that they have done for our community and recognize the 112,900 people employed by the trucking industry in our great state.

RECOGNIZING DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVANT, MARGOT BESTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished public servant, Margot Bester, who, after nearly 25 years of dedicated service to the American people, is retiring from her position as Principal Deputy Chief Counsel at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Ms. Bester has served as second in command of the Office of Chief Counsel since the months following the creation of TSA, a component of the Department of Homeland Security created by Congress to ensure transportation security for our nation in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks which occurred 18 years ago today.

In coordination with the Chief Counsel, Ms. Bester has overseen the legal work of the attorneys at TSA and has been primarily responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Office of Chief Counsel.

Ms. Bester joined the TSA Office of Chief Counsel in April 2002. In August of that year, she was selected by Admiral James Loy, then Under Secretary of Transportation for Security,

to represent TSA in its transition to DHS. She also served as the transportation security advisor to DHS Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson. In recognition of her service to the newly formed Department, Ms. Bester received the Department of Homeland Security "Day One" Award.

Early in her career, she was Director of Regulatory Relations with the United States Telephone Association and an attorney with the Federal Communications Commission.

A first-generation American, Ms. Bester was born in Buffalo, NY, to parents that had been granted asylum in our country after surviving the atrocities of the Second World War. Love of country and the importance of being an active, engaged citizen were ingrained at a young age. Ms. Bester has often spoken of the great honor of serving, protecting, and giving back to our nation, which provided opportunity and security for her family during dire circumstances.

Her passion for public service is second only to her dedication to her family. Of her many accomplishments, Ms. Bester is most proud as a mother to her sons, Brian and Eric, and as grandmother to Chase and Ava.

After spending a career protecting our Nation's transportation security, Ms. Bester now heads to an extremely well-deserved retirement from Federal service. I ask my colleagues to join me in sending the very best wishes and congratulations of the House as well as our thanks for her remarkable career and her notable service to our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM THOMAS, RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Executive Director Jim Thomas. Jim received the 2019 Community Service Award from the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at the 35th annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his leadership and service to the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Throughout his career, Jim has been dedicated to serving the Luzerne County community in a variety of roles. Following graduation from the Pennsylvania State University, University Park with a Bachelor of Science in Parks and Recreation, Jim immediately put his knowledge to action by serving as the Seasonal YMCA Summer Camp Director for Camp Kresge in White Haven, Pennsylvania. Later, Jim became the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Youth Director. He established a local indoor premier soccer program with more than two-thousand participants, while also working with the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources to start a YMCA program located in a state park.

From June 1986 to April 1994, Jim served as the Wilkes-Barre YMCA Program Execu-

tive, where he was responsible for membership and program development. Since May 1994, Jim has served as the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Executive Director, successfully spearheading numerous campaigns and raising millions of dollars to improve facilities of the Wilkes-Barre YMCA and to offer access opportunities to low income families. He also led effort to construct five new facilities at Camp Kresge and rebuild existing infrastructure to improve the camp for future generations.

Jim is also a member of numerous associations and societies, including the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society, the Pennsylvania State University Recreation and Parks Society, the Kiwanis Club of Wilkes-Barre, the Riverfront Parks Association, the Downtown Business Association, and the State Public Policy Committee.

It is an honor to join with the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in recognizing Jim's lifetime of effort. May his hard work and dedication to the community continue to have a lasting impact on the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. STEVEN S. SMITH

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Steven S. Smith, who is retiring from the Drug Enforcement Administration, after 24 years of law enforcement service, culminating as Supervisory Special Agent assigned to the Pharmaceutical Investigations Section as the Group Supervisor for Mobile Diversion Team One (MDT-1) based in Springfield, Virginia.

Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Steven Smith entered on duty with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on March 15, 1995 in Miami, Florida. SSA Smith was first assigned to the Los Angeles Field Division. During his fifteen-year tenure in Los Angeles, then Special Agent (SA) Smith worked in enforcement groups targeting methamphetamine production and trafficking, and Asian heroin distribution. Working in a multi-agency environment at the Southern California Drug Task Force and LAX Group Three, SA Smith coordinated surveillance operations with over a dozen different law enforcement agencies while supporting Title III investigations. While investigating narcotics and money couriers passing through LAX airport, SA Smith's intelligence background in both law enforcement and the military enabled him to rapidly link detained suspects to active federal, state, and local criminal investigations around the country and build partnerships which enhanced the quality of the LAX-G3 cases.

In August 2010, SA Smith transferred to the Las Vegas District Office as a member of the Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS). While assigned to the Las Vegas TDS, SA Smith led an investigation targeting a doctor and an international organized crime ring responsible for the distribution of tens of thousands of prescription tablets. This investigation resulted in the seizure of over 8000 d.u. of oxycodone, \$58,000 U.S. currency, and evidence identifying a local pharmacy as a significant