constituents should not have a right, and obviously they have the right, to question what we are doing. That is one of the checks and balances in our system.

But we have to continue to give our support when it is appropriate; and I think it is appropriate, in a maximum capacity right now, frankly, to our administration as we carry out the type of response that is necessary to eradicate the terrorist acts or the terrorists that have done this, propounded this horrible evil upon our country.

But there is another issue we have to address as the Congress of the United States: missile defense. We are absolutely being foolhardy if we think that in the future there is not going to be either an intentional or an accidental missile launch against this country.

I do not believe today that Russia is going to intentionally launch a nuclear missile against the United States. I do not think that today China is going to launch a missile, a nuclear missile, intentionally against the United States. But I do believe the potential for an accidental launch out of either one of those countries could happen.

If Members think the destruction by an aircraft does something, wait until they see what a nuclear weapon does. I do believe that there are countries, and do Members think for one minute if these terrorists had a nuclear weapon instead of an airplane that they would not have used that nuclear weapon? If they had that nuclear weapon, that would have been a nuclear weapon deployed in New York City, not an airplane.

We have people out there who will use nuclear weapons against the United States of America, and we as the Congress have an inherent obligation, an inherent obligation to provide the maximum protection possible for our people from a nuclear missile attack. We can only do that, or a big part of what we can do rests with missile defense.

Mr. Speaker, we have to get on that road. We have tremendous technology. We are almost there. We have almost got it perfected where we can stop incoming missiles into this country. We need to complete those technical studies. We need to deploy in this country a missile defense system. That is critical.

So we talked about a couple of things: one, our perseverance as citizens of this country; two, our support for the administration and our military that is out there; then, our need for a missile defense system.

Now, let me talk about the final issue that I think is critical, and that is, we have to put some of this political correctness aside and we have to talk about the problem at our borders. The fact is, our borders are disorganized, and there are a lot of people who wish harm on this country that are crossing it. In fact, some are probably crossing it as we now speak.

I was told by my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO), that there are 250,000 deportation orders out there for people who are in this country now illegally, and they have never even been served. No effort has been made to take these out and get these people out of this country.

Our borders are loose, and the follow-through, not just on the perimeter of the United States but once these people get in, for example, on student visas, we have a huge problem with student visas. What is happening is that a lot of people who get a student visa, which requires one to go to school, they never show up to school. They use that as their passport, the price of admission to get within our borders. Then they melt into society and nobody pursues them. Nobody goes after them.

We have to tighten our borders. I am not saying tighten the borders as to change the history of our country, which welcomes immigration. Our country was built and the greatness of this country was built on immigration. But we have gotten very, very sloppy; and we have an obligation to the people of this country to regulate and to tighten up this ship. We have to get it back in shape. Those borders are demanding attention today.

The resources I believe that are necessary will be appropriated by this Congress, but we have to get out of this era of being politically correct. It is not politically correct, for example, to ask a person too much about their private life, kind of like it used to be. Maybe it is not politically correct to have them go through your underwear when they look at your suitcase at the airport.

Some of these days have gone by. We have to become more realistic. We have to look with a realistic eye, not an idealistic eye but a realistic eye, as to what the threats are and what we need to do, while protecting and respecting the civil liberties granted to us under our Constitution.

I am confident that we can do it; that as a people, as a people, the response we will have as a result of September 11 will in the long run be positive for the entire world. We will represent the Statue of Liberty proudly as she looks out over those waters.

It is an obligation. It is an inherent responsibility of myself and every one of the Members in this Chamber to carry forward this country and the greatness that our forefathers have done. I have no doubt that we will do it.

THE TERRORIST ATTACK AND TRAGEDY AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Michigan). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to spend some time this evening talking about the tragedy at the World Trade Center, the terrorist attack.

I do intend to get a little personal with regard to my district, which happens to be very close to New York City. Many of the people who worked in the World Trade Center and who died in the World Trade Center were actually my constituents.

I also would like to talk a little bit this evening about some of the things that we are doing in Congress in response to the terrorist attack, some of the things that we have already done legislatively, and where I think we may go or should go over the next few weeks or the next few months in terms of what we do in Congress to respond to that attack.

I may or may not be joined by other colleagues this evening so I may not use all the time; but, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say on a personal note, I visited the World Trade Center with President Bush the Friday after September 11, and it was a very devastating scene at the site, at ground zero.

I used to work in New York City in a building known as the Equitable Building. I commuted back and forth to New Jersey, to my district, when I was younger. The Equitable Building is basically a block away from the World Trade Center. If you walk out, you used to be able to see the World Trade Center. Of course, I went to the World Trade Center many times in the course of my work when I worked in downtown Manhattan, so it really was a shock to go to ground zero in Manhattan the Friday after the terrorist attack and to see the devastation.

But I have to say that as upset as I was that day in seeing the devastation and the piles of rubble, I was uplifted by so many volunteers that came from my own State and my own district and from all over the country, really, to try to help out, both initially, in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks, and then, of course, in the days and weeks now that follow.

They were people who were involved in the rescue operations and in clearing the place. It was really an uplifting experience seeing all those people out there working together.

I think when I was standing there on that Friday and the President came by, there were three firemen from Hollywood, Florida, who wanted a chance to shake the President's hand. Of course, I kind of hustled them up so they could shake the President's hand. I really did not have any idea until I got there that day that there were police and fire and emergency rescue workers that were coming from as far away as Florida. There were probably many from even further away, from other parts of the country, or even from other parts of the world, for all I know. It was really, as I said, an uplifting experience to be able to witness all of that in the face of this tragedy.

I wanted to say if I could, Mr. Speaker, that I want my constituents and residents in New Jersey to know how much the people of New York, the leaders in New York, appreciated all the things that New Jersey volunteers did.

My district is actually across the water or across what we call the Raritan Bay. One can actually take a ferry from the World Trade Center area and in the course of maybe half an hour, 40 minutes, reach my district on the other side of Sandy Hook and Raritan Bay.

What we found in the aftermath of the tragedy is that many of the volunteers from my district were helping ferry people back and forth, as well as supplies back and forth to Manhattan on the ferries that traveled back and forth.

Mr. Speaker, we lost probably, in the two counties that I represent, Middlesex and Monmouth Counties, about 200 or so people in the World Trade Center. Needless to say, at this point most of the people have had memorial services and their relatives have reconciled themselves to the fact that their loved ones are not going to return. I have attended many vigils in the district. We also had two forums in the district in the week after September 11. One of them was in Middlesex County and the other was in Monmouth County.

The one in Monmouth County, my home county, where there were the larger percentage of the victims, was actually held in Middletown. Middletown is a suburban community where some of the ferries operate. Middletown lost over 30 people, and probably had more victims of the tragedy than any other municipality, other than New York City itself.

There was an article, Mr. Speaker, in the Washington Post on September 24 that talked about Middletown and the tragedy and how it impacted the people in Middletown. I do not want to read the whole article because it is very lengthy, but I will include it in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I will quote a few things from the article. It is rather sad. I know as time goes on we do not want to dwell on the sorrow, but I do think that because Middletown lost so many people, that I would like to read some sections of the article, because I think it says so much about how people suffered and how they responded.

A lot of the thoughts that were in this article in the Washington Post were expressed at the forum that I had in Middletown within a week or so after the World Trade Center tragedies. Some of it was actually uplifting. When we had the forum at the VFW in Middletown, some of the women that were part of the Ladies Auxiliary at the Veterans of Foreign Wars there, they helped a lot with the forum; and one of them actually wrote a national prayer which I would like to read.

If I could just take a minute to read some of the accounts in the Washington Post, it starts off, ''New Jersey Town Becomes Community of Sorrow. Commuter Haven Took Heavy Hit.'' It is written by Dale Russikoff from the Washington Post, Monday, September 24.

It says, ''Middletown, New Jersey. It was the water and the great city just 10 miles across it that drew them here. By train or bus, New York is little more than an hour away, but by far the most romantic commute, an oxymoron in most other towns, is by water. At dawn, people who leave split levels and colonials and ranch homes by the thousands board ferries at Sandy Hook Point, and 45 minutes later look up from laptops and newspapers to see the sun rising behind the majestic Manhattan skyline and the World Trade Center towers, where much of Middletown worked.

''Wall Street money built mansions in places such as Greenwich, Connecticut, and Large Mountain, New York, but in Middletown, New Jersey, as the name implies, they created a suburban ideal for the State's up-and-comers, safe neighborhoods, good schools, strong churches, open spaces, roomy houses with mortgages they didn't choke on.

''So when the Twin Towers fell on September 11, much of Middletown fell with them. The official toll stands at 36, and authorities fear it will reach 50, among the highest, if not the highest, of any town outside New York City. But the aggregate number does not begin to convey the losses.''

Mr. Speaker, it goes on to talk about the grieving residents, my grieving residents. It talks on a little bit about the experiences after the tragedy.

It says that more than half of the people who we lost in Middletown ''. . . worked for Cantor Fitzgerald,'' and I am quoting again from the Washington Post, the fabulously successful bond brokerage at the top of the World Trade Center Tower 1 that lost 700 employees.

''For a generation, now, Middletown has been a beacon for the young traders of Cantor Fitz. That was the nickname.''

I understand that most of the people that were lost in Cantor Fitzgerald were on the 105th floor, so basically they had no chance to escape. It was where the terrorist plane actually hit, so they did not really have the opportunity to escape.

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The last thing I wanted to read from this Washington Post article, it was when we had the forum in Middletown the week after the World Trade Center tragedy. As I said, it was at the VFW. I would like, Mr. Speaker, for my colleagues to understand that Middletown is not only a commuter town, but it also has a military base. Earle Naval Weapons Depot is located there and there are several thousand people that work at the Navy weapons depot. There is a lot of loyalty and pride in Middletown over the fact that Earle is based there and that there is a long tradition of the sailors being there and of people working at the base.

Middletown is also not very far from Fort Monmouth in Monmouth County, which is an Army base that has about 12,000 employees and is the communications and electronics command for the Army.

So we have in Middletown and in Monmouth County and in my entire district, a strong affinity with the military. It was interesting because when I was at the VFW that night in Middletown, even with so many people having died from that town, and even with the military bases being there and people already getting prepared at the base for a potential war against terrorism, many of the people that showed up, and many of them had fought in World War II and Korea and Vietnam, stressed the fact that they wanted us only to go after the terrorists. They did not want bombing and ground troops to go into Afghanistan or some other places unless it was actually going to mean that we were going to get the terrorists and the people responsible, or the people that harbored. They did not just want us to get involved in an indiscriminate war that might impact innocent people.

I was not surprised by that, but I think it needs to be stressed because sometimes in Congress we worry about the nature of our response.

This was the last section from the Washington Post that is sort of on point in this article. It says, ''Not all the people of Middletown are comforted by talk of war. Many have children in the military who may soon be in harm's way and several who lost family members in the September 11 attack are horrified to hear Americans calling for people of other countries to die en masse to avenge their loved ones.''

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to read this National prayer that I said was composed by the chaplain, Emma Elberfeld. This was a prayer that was basically handed out that evening at the VFW and it says, ''Lord, we come to you on bended knee, head bowed and our hearts filled to overflowing with so much grief for the many people who have been injured and killed in our National crisis. We ask you, Lord, to give courage and strength to those who so bravely go to their aid. Although their hearts are heavy and filled with sorrow, we ask you, Lord, to give them the endurance needed to help them through this difficult task.

''Please give us the strength, Lord, to get through each difficult and devastating day that faces each of us in our country. Protect and guide our military that are now being called to duty.

''We ask, Lord, please guide our leaders of this great country in their hour of decision. The burden that has been placed on shoulders during this crisis has been overwhelming. We humbly

ask that with Your infinite wisdom, You guide them gently to the right decisions.

''Lastly, Lord, we ask that You allow us all to come together as a Nation. Help us stand tall and united so that we might help each other in our hour of need. Amen.''

This is by Emma Elberfeld, chaplain, and Peg Centrella, Americanism chairlady.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to, if I could, spend a little time, in part, this is for my constituents, talking about some of the responses that we have had here in Congress, how we have dealt with the situation and where I think we should go from here.

I should mention that next Monday I have scheduled in my district a forum on homeland security, because there has been a lot of concern about what Congress will do to secure things at home. Health concerns, for example, the threat of chemical or biological warfare. Also, I have a forum scheduled the following Sunday, I believe October 14, where we are going to talk and stress tolerance because I should explain that my district is very diverse ethnically.

I had a meeting one night in one of the towns that I represent called North Brunswick, which is near New Brunswick where Rutgers University is headquartered. I could count people from 30 different countries of the 40 or so people that came to the forum. They were from such exotic place as Uzbekistan, for example. We have a very high percentage in my district of Asian Americans, of Americans from the Mideast, large Indian populations, South Asian population, Pakistani population, Sri Lanka, and a large Muslim population as well.

There has been a great deal of concern about the fact that we need to be tolerant. That we do not want people who happen to look Arab or Pakistani or from Central Asia that they be targeted and somehow they be seen as at fault for the attack on September 11. I will talk a little bit more about that this evening, although I do not intend to go on too much longer.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, that we passed in the immediate aftermath of the World Trade Center tragedy, we passed a supplemental appropriations bill, of which I think was $40 billion of which half, about $20 billion, has to go to help the victims and the rescue operations that resulted from the World Trade Center tragedy and the Pentagon attack. I want everyone to understand in my district and in New Jersey that a significant amount of that money will go not only to help victims, but also to help the towns and the fire departments and those that provided rescue operations, because the bill, as you can imagine, is rather extensive.

We also, as you know, Mr. Speaker, within a few days after the World Trade Center attack, passed a resolution authorizing the President's use of force. I will say once again and reiterate, as I assume every one of my colleagues feels very strongly, that basically we were authorizing the President to use whatever force was necessary in order to go after these terrorists, to eliminate the terrorist cells and the network, and also to be used against those who harbor or protect or supply the terrorists.

I am 100 percent supportive of that, that everything that needs to be done should be done to make sure that they are rooted out and they do not pose a threat again to the United States or to innocent victims here in the United States.

As I mentioned, myself and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) who also represents parts of Monmouth and Middlesex Counties, we both visited to the two military bases that we share, Earle Naval Weapons Depot as well as Fort Monmouth, and we saw the state of readiness that they are at.

Earle is the only ammunition depot on the Eastern seaboard that has the capacity to take ammunition by rail, if you will, from the heartland of the United States, and then has direct access to the Atlantic Ocean so that that ammunition can then be transported to ships and naval vessels that would have to go to a theater of war in the Atlantic or over in the Persian Gulf.

Fort Monmouth is the communications and electronics command for the Army. Anything that involves communications or electronics that is supportive of the war effort against terrorism essentially goes through Fort Monmouth. They do all the research and development under CECOM, Communications and Electronics Command, for the Army, but they are also involved in communications in the field for a soldier that is in place in a theater of war.

So one can see how significant these bases are, and myself and Congressman HOLT went to visit. We were very much pleased by what we saw in terms of the state of readiness and everybody being so organized to take part in this response to terrorism, and we will continue to do whatever we can to be supportive of those bases.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the next week after the World Trade Center attack, we came back to Congress and we passed the airline bailout bill, as I call it, and that was very important for my home State of New Jersey, because although we do not have a major airport in my District, we are not very far from Newark Airport and Continental Airlines. Of course, it is a major depot for them and we do have many people that have been laid off and we have the airlines suffering. So that was an important bill.

I did want to say that I think many of my colleagues have pointed out, and particularly last night, we had a special order led by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) where he talked about his displaced workers legislation. I, for one, and I know many of my Democratic colleagues were very concerned that that airline bailout bill did not provide any kind of benefits or help for workers who had been laid off, of which I have many in my District, and we will continue to agitate that the House leadership, the Republican leadership, needs to bring up a displaced workers bill so that those workers who have been laid off in the airline industry or in any industry that has suffered as a result of the World Trade Center tragedies, that those people who have been laid off would get extended health benefits, extended unemployment benefits and other benefits that are necessary for them to feed their families and to keep going and training to get another job if they cannot go back to their position in the airline industry or in the limousine industry.

For example, I mentioned limousines, because when I had my forum in Middletown, when I approached the VFW that night after the World Trade Center tragedy to have the forum, I noticed a number of limousines that were parked outside. I said, well, what is this, what are the limousines doing here? Then I walked into the forum and realized that these were limousine operators and drivers who had been laid off or who were making 5 or 10 percent of the trips that they used to make because a lot of it was to the airports or to New York City, and they need help, too.

So, even though we did the airline bailout, we need also to look at other industries that have been impacted, and we certainly need to help those displaced workers who have lost their jobs.

The other thing that we need to do in the future, and I know the Democrats in particular have been talking about, the form of an economic stimulus package. Obviously, since I am so close to New York City and have a lot of people that work in New York in the securities industry in New York, in the Stock Exchange, we are very concerned about what is happening there and the economy in general, and we need to provide a package that will stimulate the economy and get us out of this slump that we have been in.

Of course, I, and I know the Democrats have been stressing the need to provide a stimulus package that just does not help the corporations, or just does not help wealthy people, but also helps the average person so that this money gets back into the economy and is spent and helps stimulate the economy.

I wanted to talk a little bit now, if I could, before I end about these two other forums that I do plan to have over the next week or so, the one next Monday on homeland security and the one the following Sunday, I believe, on the issue of tolerance.

Within the Democratic Caucus, we have a Homeland Security Task Force that actually is chaired by one of my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and they are in

the process of putting together a principles and actions on the issue of homeland security. Some people have said to me when I use the term ''homeland security,'' what does that mean? What are you talking about?

Basically, when I have had forums in my District, the issues that I put under the rubric of homeland security have come up quite a bit, and there has been a lot of discussion about it, issues such as what would happen in the event of a chemical or biological attack? Is our water supply secure? Are our nuclear plants, which we have some in New Jersey, secure? These are the kinds of things we need to respond to and deal with, obviously, over the next few weeks.

In addition, there is the whole issue of security with regard to means of transportation other than airlines. I heard Senator BIDEN from the other body speaking on the Senate floor just a few hours ago about Amtrak and about trains. Obviously in New Jersey, we are in the middle of the northeast corridor for Amtrak, the Metroliner, other high speed trains. One train obviously carries a lot more passengers than an airline does, and yet until September 11, I do not think anybody thought much about the security of a train.

In my District, and I am sure it is true all over the country, even to take a Metroliner or a high speed train, you basically walk on with your bags. Nobody checks your bags. If you have a Metroliner, usually they will check your ticket to see if you have a ticket, but there is not the consciousness that you need to worry about security. Well, we need to.

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We need to worry about security for all forms of transportation: buses, trains, and other kinds of mass transit.

And the other issue that has come up at the forums which fits under this rubric of homeland security, and there are many, but at the forum that I had in Middlesex County, in Edison, New Jersey, a lot of people talked about emergency management concerns and communications. In other words, how we communicate in the event of a terrorist attack. Do we have the ability to provide information? Most people were watching CNN, but there needs to be an emergency system absent CNN to communicate with people. And there was talk about whether that needs to be done at a State level or at the county level.

These are the kinds of things that come up under the general category of homeland security, and of course they need to be addressed. Hopefully, we will address them here in the Congress over the next few weeks and the next few months.

The last thing I wanted to mention, and I just mentioned having this forum in another week or so on the issue of tolerance, this is very important in my district but I think all over the country because of the diversity of our citizens, and particularly in my district because we have so many citizens that either are Muslim or could look like the stereotype that we have of somebody who comes from the Middle East or South Asia. A lot of my constituents, whether they be Indian, Pakistani, or whatever their religion, have told me they have actually experienced in some cases threats, in some cases slurs, whatever, in the aftermath of the tragedy.

We actually had one person, who was from Milltown, Mr. Hassan from Milltown, in my district, who had moved to Texas to set up a small grocery store a few months before September 11. His wife and his family were still in Milltown. He was actually murdered within a few days after the World Trade Center attack. Most of the information we have seems to indicate that it was a hate crime.

Of course, they brought his body back to my district, to Milltown, and there was a service at the mosque in South Brunswick. I spoke to his widow on the phone. With all the tragedies that we had in my district and all the people that died at the World Trade Center, I think talking to Mrs. Hassan was the most difficult conversation I have had in the last few weeks, if not in the last few years, because she talked about his patriotism and why he came to the United States; because he wanted to live in a free country, and how he believed in America. He was a capitalist, obviously, in the sense he wanted to open up a small business and be successful.

She expressed in such an eloquent way why it was important for us in this country to speak of tolerance and not tag Muslim Americans or Pakistani or Indian Americans as somehow involved in terrorist attacks. That is why I think it is important that we all continue to speak out on the issue of tolerance.

I was very impressed with President Bush, and my colleagues know I do not always agree with President Bush on many things, but I was so impressed with the fact that every day, not only on the day of the tragedy, September 11, but on the Thursday after, when I met him at the White House, on the Friday when we went to the World Trade Center, and when he addressed a joint session of Congress the following week, on every one of those occasions and every occasion I have seen him talk about the tragedies of September 11 he would talk about Muslims and how Islam does not preach violence, and that Muslim Americans should not be tagged and should not be treated any differently because of this World Trade Center attack.

We need to continue to do that. I have to say I was very impressed that in my district we had a number of vigils that I attended. At every one of the vigils that I have attended since September 11 there was a Muslim religious leader present to say a prayer and to offer condolences. And I think that the people organizing those vigils in my district were going out of their way to make sure that there was a Muslim cleric there saying a prayer, to make the point that Islam does not preach violence, and that the people who are of Muslim descent in the district and around the country should in no way be associated with this terrorist attack.

We know, in fact, that many Muslims and people of Mid Eastern or South Asian origin died in the World Trade Center. There were Palestinians, there were Pakistanis, and there were many Indian Americans. And when I went to see the rescue operations, I saw many of those people, either physicians or rescue workers or people involved in voluntary efforts that were from those same groups as well.

It is crucial that we continue to preach tolerance. Hopefully, we could even see some progress in some legislative initiatives, such as the hate crimes legislation that would increase penalties for hate crimes. Maybe we can also, in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks, pass legislation that would prohibit racial profiling. These are the kinds of things in a positive way that could be done as a positive response to the World Trade Center attacks in order to preach tolerance and to put this Nation on record legislatively even stronger against any kind of racial or ethnic attacks.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to end, if I could this evening, with a letter that was sent to me by one of my constituents from Long Branch, which is my hometown. This was at one of the meetings I held. This was a meeting I held with some Long Branch residents in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks.

This was sent to me and written by Colleen Rose, who lives at 311 Liberty Street in Long Branch, in my hometown, not far from my congressional office and not far from where I live. She really sums up well the way I feel and the way I think also most of my constituents feel. It is titled, ''To the Terrorists That This Concerns:

''It is obvious from your actions that you wanted me to feel the way you do. Well, I am an American. I have choices. I will not be controlled.

''Where you would have my country and those slain seen as victims, I choose to see them as patriots. Americans are not victims.

''Where your actions would have me feel fear, I choose to feel the courage, strength, and comfort of my countrymen around me.

''Where your actions would have me feel terror, I choose to feel pride in the way the people in the Pittsburgh plane crash fought back and downed the plane in the safest place possible, sparing as many lives as possible. And the way our rescue workers go on heedless of the possible injury to themselves.

''Where your actions would have me feel hopeless, I choose to feel great hope and faith in the overwhelming efforts of a Nation and world doing all

that it can to come together as one people.

''Where your actions would have me feel powerless, I choose to feel empowered by my own actions in assisting the recovery in any way that I am able.

''Where you would have us cry tears of sorrow, I choose, and have chosen over the past few days, to cry tears of joy for the two rescue workers who exited the wreckage and were not added to the list of casualties, and for the acts of human kindness being expressed on a global scale.

''Where you have sent fire balls through the sky, I choose to light candles as an expression of spirit and solidarity.

''Where you have attempted to cause chaos, I choose to find stability in simple things, like the gifts of a first grade class sending a thousand peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with Hershey kisses taped to the top to the rescue teams.

''Where you have looked to demoralize us, we have chosen as a people to find a depth of national cohesion I had not thought possible.

''Where you would have me feel hate, I choose to give you none of my emotional energy. You get nothing from me, especially not something as strong and powerful as hate. You will be treated like the cancer you are and cut off of the body of humanity to save the greater whole. I hope that this is done with the medical detachment and accuracy of a surgeon cutting out the bad tissue to preserve what is good.

''Where you would have us overreact to your handiwork to prove to the world that we are evil, I would choose to respond and take out only those who would create such a chaos in the future and on other innocents of our global family. I pray my country feels the same way.

''In short, where you have looked to do us a great disservice, we have chosen to do ourselves a great service. We have chosen to take this as a reminder of what we really are. We have chosen to see each other as people, not as colors or races or creeds or majorities or minorities, but as people 'with certain inalienable rights.'.

''We will continue to choose.''

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the article I referred to earlier from The Washington Post.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 24, 2001]

N.J. TOWN BECOMES COMMUNITY OF SORROW

COMMUTER HAVEN TOOK HEAVY HIT

(By Dale Russakoff)

MIDDLETOWN, N.J.—It was the water, and the great city just 10 miles across, that drew them here. By train or bus, New York is little more than an hour away, but by far the most romantic commute—an oxymoron in most other towns—is by water. At dawn, people would leave split-levels and colonials and ranch homes by the thousands, board ferries at Sandy Point Bay and, 45 minutes later, look up from laptops and newspapers to see the sun rising behind the majestic Manhattan skyline and the World Trade Center towers, where much of Middletown worked.

Wall Street money built mansions in places such as Greenwich, Conn., and Larchmont, N.Y., but in Middletown, as the name implies, it created a suburban ideal for the Street's up-and-comers—safe neighborhoods, good schools, strong churches, open spaces, roomy houses with mortgages they didn't choke on.

And so when the twin towers fell on Sept. 11, much of Middletown fell with them. The official toll stands at 36, and authorities fear it will reach 50—among the highest, if not the highest, of any town outside New York City. But the aggregate number doesn't begin to convey the losses. For that, you have to visit St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, which lost 26 parishioners. Or the nursery school at Middletown Reformed Church, where five children lost parents. Or the practice last Wednesday night of the Middletown Youth Athletic Association's girls' traveling basketball team, which lost its beloved coach of the last four years. Or the boys' team, on which one player lost his father and another, his mother.

Everyone is grieving for someone they knew by face, if not by name: the neighbor who was always working in his yard on Saturdays, the mother with the beautiful baby in the grocery store line, the father who cheered so loudly on the soccer sidelines, the familiar-looking man on the 6:24 a.m. train or the 7 a.m. ferry.

The Rev. John Dobrosky, the pastor at St. Mary's scarcely sleeps nowadays. He found himself in the epicenter of loss the other day while counseling fifth-graders at the parish school.

''How many of you lost someone close to you? he asked the class of 24 boys and girls in uniforms of light blue shirts and dark pants or skirts. Twelve hands went up, followed by a litany, delivered in young monotones:

Steve's daddy. My dad's best friend. My basketball coach. My baseball coach. My neighbor. Ryan's uncle. Christine's uncle. My best friend's dad. Mrs. Hoey's husband.

The religion teacher showed a visitor a letter she had received, signed by two sixth-grade girls: ''I know God loves us. But if he loves us so much, why did he let this happen? I know everything happens for a reason, but how could there be a reason for something this horrible to happen? I guess what I'm trying to say is, will you please explain this to me?''

The same day, Dobrosky visited a parishioner, Eileen Hoey, to give her the grim news that the body of her husband, Pat, had been found in the rubble known to the world as Ground Zero. Pat Hoey, 53, a civil engineer, was executive manager of tunnels, bridges and terminals for the Port Authority of New Your and New Jersey on the 64th floor of the North Tower. He worked 31 years for the Authority, the only employer he'd ever had, and he loved it, said his son Rob, a systems analyst for NEC America in Herndon.

Pat Hoey loved the George Washington Bridge most of all. He led the projects that lit up like a constellation for the millennium celebration last year and rigged it to hold a massive American flag on July 4 and special occasions. He e-mailed pictures of the bridge to his children. ''I've got it as the wallpaper on my desk top at work,'' Rob Hoey said. Last week, the Port Authority hung the huge flag on the George Washington Bridge in Patrick Hoey's honor.

After visiting the Hoeys, Dobrosky collapsed in a chair in the church rectory. ''We've seen evil. We've even smelled it,'' he said, pointing out the window, toward Sandy Point Bay. Amid a spectacularly blue sky, a grayish yellow film had settled just above the tree line. ''The cloud has crossed the bay,'' he said. ''Look, it's still there.''

There were clouds over Middletown before Sept. 11, but in retrospect, they seem almost see-through. For months, pastors and counselors had been ministering to distraught breadwinners laid off by nearby Lucent Technologies, the once high-flying spinoff of AT&T that went into decline with the high-tech bust. Now the families and friends of Middletown's missing or dead wish their loved ones had been so lucky as to have been laid off before Sept. 11.

More than half of them worked for Cantor Fitzgerald, the fabulously successful bond brokerage at the top of World Trade Center Tower One that lost 700 employees. For a generation now, Middletown has been a beacon for the young traders of ''Cantor Fitz.'' Robert Feeney, 47, who retired in 1998 after 20 years with the firm, said he moved to Middletown in 1983 on the advice of his boss, who then lived here. Then younger people came in, and followed him.

''We all worked hard, always under pressure, in close quarters, and we became a group,'' Feeney said. ''And it was just natural that young couples met and got married, and then the next step was to move to Middletown.'' From here, they commuted together on New Jersey Transit trains, on the Seastreak ferry or in car pools to Jersey City, where they took underground PATH trains through one of Patrick Hoey's tunnels to the base of the World Trade Center. They lived around the corner from one another, took vacations together, put their children in the same preschools.

''I went to their weddings, their christenings, their children's first communions,'' Feeney said of his younger colleagues. Now he's going to their wakes.

''Some of these girls are 35 years old with four kids, or 32 with three kids. A few of the kids are just starting grammar schools,'' he said. ''What have they done to these families?''

Middletown, with 70,000 residents, is a town with no center and no downtown. But in its extraordinary grief, it is now a community. St. Mary's set up a 24-hour counseling and prayer center staffed by two employees, and suddenly a flood of volunteers materialized to help keep it running. The Seastreak ferry turned itself into a lifeline, carrying more than 4,000 fleeing people from New York after the attack and ferrying supplies and personnel to the rescue effort ever since. Patrick Hoey's neighbors, including some his family never had met, gathered at his house one night, holding candlelight vigil at his door.

''Some of them said, 'We always saw him in the garden. He waved every time we drove by,' ''Rob Hoey said.

Last Wednesday night, the Middletown Youth Athletic Association's all-star girl's basketball team held its first practice without Paul Nimbley, 42, their beloved Coach Paul, who in four years taught them much of what they know about the game, and much about life, too. The girls, 12- and 13-year-olds, were awesome, as usual, sinking shots with nothing but net, spinning and blocking like their heroines on the New York Liberty. These were moves Coach Paul had taught them, they said—moves they practiced with all their hearts, in part because they loved to hear him say, ''You're looking really good out there, kid.''

He and his wife had five children, and he had a big job at Cantor Fitzgerald, but somehow he always had time for the team. The team has been at his house every night since, making cookies and pasta for his been at his house every night since, making cookies and pasta for his family, taking turns playing with his baby son to spare his wife, Cherri. On Wednesday, in his honor, they made themselves practice, with the support of three assistant coaches, fathers who said he had brought out the best in them as well as their daughters.

''We're going to play for Paul,'' a tearful Lauren Einecker, 12, said after the practice, her ponytail tied with a sweat band. ''He's going to be in our hearts every time we step out on the court,'' said Shannon Gilmartin, 12, a slip of a point guard.

Off to the side, John Dini, now the team's head coach, was fighting back tears. ''They call it terrorism,'' he said. ''But to me, it feels like my heart's been broken.''

Not all the people of Middletown are comforted by talk of war. Many have children in the military, who may soon be in harm's way. And several who lost family members in the Sept. 11 attack are horrified to hear Americans calling for people of other countries to die en masse to average their loved ones.

''You don't want a bomb to drop anywhere. You don't want anyone to go through this,'' said John Pietrunti, whose brother Nicholas, 38, was a back office worker at Cantor Fitzgerald. ''I turned on the TV and saw that big banner, 'Operation Infinite Justice,' and it was as if they were talking about a movie. I expected them to say, 'Coming soon.' . . . The way people are talking about retaliation is a disrespect to my brother and to everyone who died there.''

All around Middletown are reminders of the simple things that used to define life here, most of all, the lure of the water. It is written in the names of streets: Oceanview Avenue, Seaview Avenue, Bayview Terrace. Nobody has yet gotten used to the new meaning of the water. Anthony Bottone, owner of Bottone Realty Group Inc., showed a residential lot to developers last weekend and found himself saying, ''You could build a $500,000 house here and see the New York skyline from the second floor.''

''You should have seen the looks I got,'' he said.

The ferries resumed regular service last Monday, but now they carry more than commuters. Among the travelers are rescue workers, ironworkers, electricians and contractors, all involved in excavating the rubble. There are psychologists and social workers, too, in case passengers need emotional support. Some of last week's commuters were on the 7:55 a.m. ferry from New Jersey on Sept. 11, which reached Wall Street just as the first plane struck. Others had lost up to a dozen friends.

Social worker Aurore Maren rode the ferries all week, and was struck by the commuters' distress. ''They're helpless in their sense of loss and they're helpless in their sense there's nothing they can do to stop this from spinning even more wildly out of control,'' she said.

Maren was struck, also, by something else. As the ferry passed under the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge, opening up that amazing, wide-angle view of the Statue of Liberty and the New York skyline, the commuters did something she'd never seen before. They all turned around in their seats. They couldn't bear to look.

IMMIGRATION AND OPEN BORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Michigan). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is once again my opportunity to address this body about an issue of great concern to me. It is an issue, of course, that I have been dealing with for quite some time. It is an issue that has taken on much more significance after the events of September 11; but it is an issue, nonetheless, that held and should have held our attention before that time. I am talking about the issue of immigration and the fact that this Nation for now at least for decades has embarked upon and embraced a concept that we have referred to often as ''open borders.''

Amazing as that is to many of our countrymen, there is still a philosophy, it is still a general sort of pattern of discussion in this body and around the country, think tanks, entities like The Wall Street Journal and others, to continually press this concept of ''open borders,'' even in light of all that has happened to us since September 11. It is a dangerous concept. It was dangerous before September 11, and it is dangerous today.

My colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), addresses the issue of workers that have been laid off, workers that have been denied jobs; and now, as a result of these horrible events of September 11 have lost their jobs. But let me point out that before September 11, even before the September 11 terrorist attacks, U.S. job cuts announced in 2001 exceeded the 1 million mark.

In this article, they give us a partial list. It goes on for four pages of the companies that had laid off employees, again, even before the attacks on our country on September 11. Lucent Technologies headed the list on this one with 40,000. Since then, I understand, they have announced that another 20,000 people would be laid off. Nortel Networks, 30,000; Motorola, 28,000; Selectron, 20,850; and it goes on to over 1 million Americans having been laid off before September 11.

Now, of course, everyone knows what has happened in America and especially to the airline industry since September 11. Hundreds of thousands of Americans more have been laid off. It is not just of course the men and women who have been laid off in the airline industry directly, it is the thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands that we may be approaching here very soon that have been laid off as a result of the fact that the airline industry is down.

I do not know at this point in time, as of today, as of this moment, what our unemployment rate is; but I will hazard a guess that when it is announced by the Labor Department, the most recent figures will show a significant jump. And I do not think that is much of a task to predict something like that.

□ 1930

I say to my colleagues in this body and I say to the administration, when we are presented with the administration's plans for an economic stimulus package, when presented with the plans to deal with the unemployed, I know I have heard already of plans in the works to extend unemployment compensation to all of these people who have been laid off, and I have heard various other kinds of comments. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) talked about doing something with health insurance. All of that is admirable, but why will we not deal with one very basic problem, and that is we have had for almost 4 decades essentially porous borders, borders that really do not exist.

We have faced a flood of immigration that has never before in this Nation's history been paralleled. Nothing we have seen in the Nation's history, not even in the, quote, heyday of immigration in the early part of the 20th century, not even then did we see the kind of numbers that we have seen in the last 3 or 4 decades.

Right now we admit legally into this country about 1 million people a year, and we add to that another quarter of a million that come in under refugee status. But, of course, that is just the legal immigration, which is four times higher on an annual basis than it ever was during the heyday of immigration into this Nation in the early 20th century, the early 1900s. Four times greater. We are looking at four times the number of people coming into the country legally, and who knows how many are coming across our borders illegally; but I would suggest that it is at least that many every single year.

The net gain in population of this Nation as a result of illegal immigration is at least a million. I have seen estimates far higher, of 3 million, 4 million. The INS does not really know and does not really care. The INS is a coconspirator in this immigration flood we have had. The INS considers itself not to be an agency that protects the border, that keeps people out who are not supposed to come here, that finds people who are here illegally and deports them, that finds people who are here even legally and have violated the law under their visa status and deports them. The INS does not consider itself to be an agency designed to do that job I have just described.

Mr. Speaker, the INS considers itself to be, and I quote from an INS official I was debating on the radio in Denver a couple of months ago, and during the question period by the moderator who said to her why does the INS not essentially round up people. She said because that is not our job. She said, Our job is to find ways to legalize these people. Astounding as that might sound to the majority of Americans who are listening, to the people in the INS, that is the culture.

Mr. Speaker, to suggest to them that their responsibility, an equal responsibility at least, is to keep people out of the United States who have not been granted a visa, who are not legally coming here under any sort of immigration status, to suggest to them that that is their role and that they should perhaps do something about the number of people who have come in illegally, we should find them, send them back to their country of origin, we should find an employer who employed