

in struggles before. I appreciate the counsel that the veterans of New York's Second Congressional District have provided.

IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSWOMAN
BARBARA LEE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to show my support for our colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE. I am concerned about recent reports that violent threats have been directed at Ms. LEE following her vote against H.J. Res 64, which authorized the use of military force in response to the attacks of September 11.

While many of us may not agree with Congresswoman LEE's decision to vote against the authorization of the use of force, we must stand united to defend her right to vote her conscience as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. A Member's duty is to vote on behalf of their constituents and to vote with their conscience. We must rise in support of this intrinsic component of our democracy.

Just as the acts of September 11th can destroy us from without, they can also destroy us from within. As Members of Congress we must call on America to check our inflamed passions and national anger so as not to risk destroying our national unity. In recent days we have seen a spate of hate crimes against Muslims, Arab Americans and South Asian Americans. Such hate and intolerance threatens to slowly destroy the foundation of our democracy.

During this very difficult time in American history, we must demonstrate to the American people that we are strong and united beyond party lines and ideologies. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in deploring these acts against Congresswoman LEE and supporting our democratic process.

NEW THREATS READINESS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, reflection on the attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon leads us to the inescapable conclusion that the United States must ever be ready to meet new threats that face us, regardless of their source.

During our district work period, former Congressman James W. Symington of Missouri spoke at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

for the groundbreaking on the new library at the Battlefield's visitors center. Mr. Symington's father, Senator Stuart Symington, spoke at the dedication of the National Battlefield forty years earlier. Jim Symington is now an attorney in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Symington challenged those at the dedication to consider that threats today could be met by "preventative diplomacy, the maintenance of traditional alliances, the forging of new ones, state-of-the-art intelligence capability, and sufficient countermeasures."

As we deliberate our response as a nation to the events of September 11, I urge my colleagues to consider the comments made by Mr. Symington.

UNION, RECONCILIATION, READINESS

In the words of a beloved hymn: "Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away. They vanish lightly as a dream fades at the break of day."

Has it really been forty years since my father stood here to dedicate this hard-won parksite as a memorial, in his words, "to a high point of valor" in our nation's history? It was a Missouri moment, just as it was a century earlier when Missourians in concert with units from neighboring states, contested and made sacred this ground in the same time frame as Bull Run in Virginia and with consequences no less significant. This morning we share another Missouri moment seven score years from the very day this

First, it signifies our precious Union; its bonds re-forged by that historic battle and so many like it over the ensuing four years. Again, in my father's words, "As we dedicate this ground, let us join our hearts and minds in prayer that this be a battlefield of the last war which will ever be fought on native Missouri or American soil". His words call to mind a speech Abe Lincoln made in 1838 to the Young Men's Lyceum in that other Springfield, Illinois: "From where", he said, "should we expect the approach of danger. Shall some transatlantic military giant step the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa with a Bonaparte for a commander could not by force take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation free of men, we will live forever or die by suicide."

What a prophetic utterance—for that Illinois lawyer to make, that young but farsighted Illinois lawyer destined to help his country draw back from the brink of such suicide a quarter of a century later. By giving his own life to the rescue he confirmed the spirit he had already seeded with the appeal he made in his First Inaugural Address: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break, our bonds of affection."

Reconciliation—the second lesson of Wilson's Creek. Missourians answered this appeal long before Appomattox. Last spring my wife and I journeyed down the Mississippi by the *Delta Queen*. Stopping at Vicksburg, we

visited that historic battlefield, and particularly the monument to fallen Missourians. I had not known until then that Missouri was the only state that fielded troops on both sides in that crucial campaign.

Those of you who may have seen the Ken Burns public television documentary on the Civil War will recall, I'm sure, that poignant moment, recorded on scratchy black and white movie film in 1913, the Fiftieth Anniversary of Gettysburg. The lame, white haired old survivors of that bloodletting squared off again in reenactment of Pickett's charge. The Confederate veterans, giving their now feeble rebel yell, struggled up the incline to the Union parapets where they were met not by gunfire, but the cheers and welcoming arms of their former foes. Shedding unashamed tears, they embraced, and held one another close. Had the veterans of Wilson's Creek enjoyed a similar chance to meet, the result would surely have been the same. As it is we must assume their spirits mingle kindly together and hove approvingly over us today.

Accompanying my father at the 1961 dedication was his nine-year-old grandson, my nephew, Stuart Symington IV, now a career diplomat. Dad wanted him here to implant indelibly in his mind the significance of that joint sacrifice—just as my Mother, also at the age of nine, had attended the dedication in 1914 of a monument at Gettysburg to her

Our born again Union and the new nation it forged has crossed many a perilous divide since the men in blue and gray stacked their arms, and returned to their homes in 1865. Two subsequent world wars preceded the 1961 commemoration my father addressed. The "passions and faults of human nature", as he said, coupled with the capacity of mankind to destroy itself, placed a grave burden on diplomacy, backed by a force no "transatlantic military giant" would ever dare confront. His focus was Soviet power and intent. Now nuclear proliferation, bio-chemical and other potential threats to our air, water, and cyberspace make today's challenges more complex, diverse, and unpredictable. They require preventative diplomacy, the maintenance of traditional alliances, the forging of new ones, state-of-the-art intelligence capability, and sufficient countermeasures to detect, deter, and, if necessary, overcome any threat that could arise within or beyond our borders. A daunting, multi-faceted challenge, but one which the heroes who contested this ground would expect us to meet cheerfully and without hesitation. And that is the third lesson of Wilson's Creek: Readiness, the wisdom to define it and the acceptance of the sacrifices necessary to maintain it.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion I know I speak for my departed father, My brother Stuart, and all our family when I convey both our gratitude and warm congratulations to you every one of the remarkable men and women who dreamed, planned, designed, funded, promoted, lobbied, voted, and ultimately achieved this breathtaking memorial to Missouri's "high point of valor". It