

tour of his office and explained that his desk was Teddy Roosevelt's from his tour as Commissioner in the late 1800's.

After leaving the Commissioner's office, Detective Rowen took us to see Ground Zero. After seeing it so often in news coverage, it was an uncanny feeling to actually be at the site. I said a quiet prayer for the victims and listened while Detective Rowen related his memories from the day of the attack. He was at the command center when the first plane hit and was helping victims at the foot of the buildings when the first tower fell. There is a brief shot of him running up the street in one of the CNN videos as the cloud of debris follows behind. He said it was like a wall of water, he ducked into a side street and the wave of dirt followed him around the corner. A nearby visitor asked what is was like to be surrounded by the smoke and he said it wasn't smoke, it was more like dirt and fine particles of concrete dust that followed him and eventually covered him like so many of the photos we all saw from the news that day.

The site now looks more like a construction site and an individual happening along on it today would probably wonder what was going to be built there. The sides of the hole go straight down for probably five or six stories and you can see each level of the substructure of the underground areas across the way. We could see where the subway tunnel was going north from the site. For someone who had never seen the World Trade Center, it was hard to imagine just how tall it was. Standing at Ground Zero now, you are surrounded by skyscrapers, the tallest of which is 54 stories. I tried to explain to my daughters that if they took that building and placed another one just like it on top that would have been about the same height as the 110 stories of the Twin Towers. Many of the buildings still show damage from the attack and collapse of WTC. Still the clean up has been a heroic effort in and of itself.

My family thanked Detective Rowen as we left and my middle daughter, Angela (8) exchanged e-mail addresses with Ashleen planning to stay in contact. As we drove back to Long Island we all were just amazed at the events of the day. Reflecting on the tragedy of last year and remembering the expressions of welcome and gratitude from each and every person we met.

When we had first discussed going to New York City to meet Steve and his family, he had told us that when we got there he was going to throw a big party. As the plans for the trip grew, we found out that his daughter Ashley's second birthday (September 1) would be celebrated on Saturday, August 31 and that he was having his whole family over. We picked that weekend to go so that we could meet all of them and make sure that they knew just how special we thought that Steve and Michelle were. Saturday dawned with a story in the New York Post about Amanda and Steve and how a small thank you card and its magnificent reply reached halfway across the country to bring them together. As we arrived at Steve and Michelle's, we were welcomed by all of their family and friends as a new part of the family. Steve's mother Linda had gifts for each of our girls, as did his Aunt Val & Uncle Len. We got to meet his partner and other friends form the force. About halfway through the party, we all heard the sound of bagpipes tuning up. Steve had told me that there was another surprise coming and as he called us all to the patio, he announced his Lieutenant and other members of the Emerald Society, NYPD's pipe and drum corps. They gave a short concert for all of us in honor of Ashley's birthday and Amanda's visit. Once again the emotions overflowed to hear the patriotic medleys and other songs from the

bagpipes and drum. It was a great way to cap off another extraordinary day.

Our last full day in New York was spent touring the city like normal visitors. We left Steven and his family to give them a chance to spend Ashley's birthday alone while we went to the observation deck of the Empire State Building, drove down Broadway and explored Manhattan by ourselves. For visitors coming to New York for the first time, you're struck by the size of all the buildings, the number of people and you quickly come to see that there is no place like it in the country. I've had the privilege of visiting 46 of the 48 contiguous United States as well as Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Truly New York City has no equal.

After having dinner with Steve, Michelle, Ashley, and Steve's sister Lisa's family, we headed back to our hotel and the next morning left for home. Our trip to New York City was way more memorable than we could ever have imagined. It gave my children an experience that they will never forget. Steve and his family are in the process of planning a trip here for a visit to St. Martha School in early November. We are all looking forward to seeing them again. The police officers and firefighters of New York showed the rest of the nation that heroes arise from adversity. My family has been fortunate to meet one of those heroes and to get to know him as a good friend. People like Steve Tarricone are around us every day, and sometimes the small gestures, like a thank you card sent by a kindergartener can bring them into our lives. The next time your child comes home from school and says that they sent cards to someone, be it at a local nursing home, or to the President of the United States, I hope that you will recognize the importance of those messages to all who see them.

Mr. Speaker, Christopher Davio is right. Small gifts of kindness can have immeasurable benefits. Today, we wish to extend our appreciation to Amanda Davio and her family, Officer Steve Tarricone and his family and colleagues, and all the students from the 8th District who helped our nation begin its recovery. I now ask that our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join us in recognizing this remarkable American story.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HEROES OF THE 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 2002*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary women and men of the distinguished 14th Congressional District for their heroic responses to the tragic events of a year ago.

On the first anniversary of the attacks on our nation, we reaffirm our commitment to the ideals that have made the United States of America the greatest nation on earth. We have grieved for our lost loved ones, and now we continue the work of a freedom-loving nation. We take pride in and are in awe of what the American people have done in response to the attack on our nation. They have been brave, and generous and the entire world has witnessed the strength and the decency of our people. Americans respond with open, brave and generous hands and hearts to those who are in need.

Mr. Speaker, the 14th Congressional District lost two extraordinary people, Naomi Solomon and Andrew Garcia, who enriched the lives of everyone they knew and loved.

I ask my colleagues to join me in once again offering our deepest sympathy and that of our entire national to the Solomon and Garcia families.

This nation had many heroes on September 11, 2001. We all know of the supreme sacrifice made by so many firefighters, police officers and others in their response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. We know of the heroism of those on the hijacked planes who prevented even more calamitous attacks on our nation's Capitol. We've learned about of the heroism of people all over our country who pitched in to give service to others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to all who have emerged from the tragedies of that fateful day to embody what it means to be true American Heroes by giving so much of their time, talents and resources to heal the wounds of September 11, 2001. There are too many individuals, organizations and companies to name each separately, but I'd like to honor in our Nation's Record a few examples of some of the many people of the 14th Congressional District who rose to the occasion in extraordinarily generous ways:

The Town of Woodside Firefighters—held a "Fill the Boot" fundraiser on Sept 30th for the New York Fire 9-11 Relief Fund.

YWCA and the Mountain View City Human Relations Commission—held a "Building Community, Understanding and Respect" forum and dialogue in response to Sept. 11th.

The Menlo Park Community Chorus and the Foothill Orchestra—organized a program of patriotic and inspirational music on Dec 15th which benefited the "victims and heroes" of Sept. 11th.

Banks, Financial Institutions and Credit Unions including San Mateo Credit Union and Stanford Credit Union—maintained and kept open their financial networks for their customers despite the resulting chaos of the attacks; and organized fundraising campaigns among their employees and customers to benefit the families affected by Sept. 11th.

Gallery Europa in Palo Alto owners Louise Erricson and David Himmelberger organized a special exhibit in which the sale proceeds were donated to families of victims of Sept. 11th.

Hyland Hogan and Lane Lees of the Half Moon Bay Fire District—following September 11th, they boarded a plane and were adopted by NYFD Ladder Company 3 where they helped the company after it lost 12 of its members and assisted the families of lost firefighters. In May, the district presented the New York Company with a memorial hand-made case holding an ax recovered by one of the firefighters and pictures of the 12 who perished.

All the teachers and school administrators (like Jill Ballard and Sherry Fulton who teach American Literature and Studies at Half Moon Bay High School)—who changed their curricula and schedules to help students understand and cope with the events of September 11th.

Law enforcement agencies and organizations like the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and the San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff's Association—set up funds to help the families of police officers killed in the Sept 11th attacks.

California Task Force 3 Urban Search and Rescue—deployed local firefighters and other task force members to New York to assist at ground zero.

Harold Schapelhouman, Menlo Park Fire District

Randall Shurson, Menlo Park Fire District

Paul Cole, Half Moon Bay Fire District

Gerald Kohlmann, San Jose Fire Department  
Phil White, South San Francisco Fire Department

Troy Holt, Menlo Park Fire District

Brian Beadnell, Menlo Park Fire District

Ben Marra, Menlo Park Fire District

Carl Kustin, San Mateo Fire Department

Rexford Ianson, Menlo Park Fire District

John Preston, NASA Ames DART

Bill Trolan, Physician

Jared Strote, Physician

George Berry, Civilian—Communications Specialist

David Larton, Civilian—Communications Specialist

Martin Mijangos, Civilian—Technical Information Specialist

Mike Bavister, Civilian—Technical Information Specialist

Gordon Coe, Menlo Park Fire District

Hollice Stonc, Civilian—Logistics Specialist

Mark Meyers, Civilian—Logistics Officer

Paul Brown, NASA Ames DART

Joe Zsutty, Structural Engineer

Raymond Lui, Structural Engineer

Harry Jackson, San Jose Fire Department

Kelly Kasser, NASA Ames DART

Crane Rigger, San Mateo County CDF

Robert Simmons, Civilian

James Stevens, Menlo Park Fire District—Medic

Kenneth Oliver, Menlo Park Fire District—Medic

Eric Haslam, South San Francisco Fire Department—Medic

Kevin Banks, Santa Clara Fire Department—Medic

John Wurdinger, Menlo Park Fire District—Technical Search Specialist

Roger Miller, NASA Ames DART—Technical Search Specialist K-9

Shirley Hammond, California OES, K-9

Jeff Place, California OES, K-9

Patricia Grant, California OES, K-9

Carol Herse, California OES, K-9

Tom Marinkovich, Menlo Park Fire District

Philip Snyder, NASA Ames DART

Don Chesney, Burlingame Fire Department

Michael Shaffer, Menlo Park Fire District

Rodney Brovelli, Menlo Park Fire District

Keith Slade, Menlo Park Fire District

Charles Sturtevant, Menlo Park Fire District

Jeff Schreiber, Menlo Park Fire District

Bill McFarland, Menlo Park Fire District

Mark Tagney, NASA Ames DART

Jeffrey Maxwell, Milpitas Fire Department

Chris De La Osa, Mountain View Fire Department

Daniel Horton, Redwood City Fire Department

Gerald Pera, Redwood City Fire Department

Steve Ehlers, Burlingame Fire Department

Bruce Barron, Burlingame Fire Department

Patrick Brown, Santa Clara Fire Department

Rod Villa, San Jose Fire Department

David Lerma, San Jose Fire Department

Greg Campbell, San Mateo Fire Department

Dave Rovetti, San Mateo Fire Department

Jesus Magallanes, South San Francisco Fire Department

Chris Campagna, South San Francisco Fire Department

Thomas Calvert, Menlo Park Fire District

Alex Leman, Civilian—Incident Support Team

Frank Fraone, Menlo Park Fire District—Incident Support Team

BK Cooper, Civilian—Incident Support Team

David Hammond, Civilian—Incident Support Team

John Osteraas, Civilian—Incident Support Team

The Children of the Payvand Cultural School of Cupertino, an Iranian Community Based School—filmed a special video after 9/11 to spread the message of tolerance and peace. The video is named Hand in Hand and it was sent to President Bush.

Local Media—reporters like Mark Simon and Tom Abate with the San Francisco Chronicle, Loretta Green, Leigh Weimers and Jim Puzanghera with the San Jose Mercury News, Don Kazak, Palo Alto Weekly, Dave Price with the Palo Alto Daily reporters from The Almanac, Half Moon Bay Review/Pescadero Pebble, San Mateo County Times, Redwood City Independent, Los Altos Town Crier, Mountain View Voice, Silicon Valley Business Journal, Gentry, San Jose Magazine, Sunnyvale Sun, Cupertino Courier all provided critical information, told our collective stories, shared our thoughts and helped to underscore a message of hope and tolerance.

Silicon Valley Companies and Businesses—Silicon Valley companies came together with their employees immediately after 9/11 to raise millions of dollars for charitable organizations. Many of the contributions made by companies were matched by employees, which brought aid to the affected families including those of firefighters and police officers. The senior executives at Sun Microsystems raised \$1 million and the company matched dollar per dollar all employee contributions. That effort raised an additional \$500,000. Sun Microsystems, like many Silicon Valley companies also participated in Ebay's Auction for America, donating over \$1.3 million worth of products. Hewlett-Packard employees gave \$1 million to support relief efforts. HP itself contributed \$2 million, and matched its employees' gifts with another \$1 million. In addition, HP like many other Silicon Valley companies, donated equipment to assist in the September 11 relief efforts. Companies like National Semiconductor not only made monetary contributions but also organized employee blood drives. Paypal, through their members helped raise \$2.35 million for the National Disaster Relief Fund of the American Red Cross. Cadence, under the leadership of CEO Ray Bingham, raised over \$1.6 million in contributions to the American Red Cross and to the New York Firefighters' 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund. Cadence and its employees also held a special flag raising ceremony commemorating the tragic events of 9-11. Apple too went above and beyond to assist the victims. In addition to financial contributions to the Red Cross, Apple donated eBooks to the children of the rescue workers who lost their lives in the line of duty. These are but a few examples of the many contributions made by the employers and employees of the 14th Congressional District.

CHUMS—Children United Morally and Spiritually—designed an interfaith holiday card which they sold and donated the proceeds to victims of 9/11.

VA Palo Alto National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (NCPTSD) staff includ-

ing Director Fred Gusman, Gregory Leskin, Robyn Walsler, Sherry Riney, and Ken Drescher who traveled to the Pentagon to provide the Department of Defense guidance and assistance for the psychological response efforts following 9/11.

The men and women of the California Highway Patrol—whose continuing vigilance helps ensure the safety of our bridges, airports, and other infrastructure.

The members of the Reserves and California National Guard who have been mobilized and their families—many of these dedicated individuals have taken deep pay cuts and will endure long separations from their families to prosecute the war on terror.

Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Stanford University (particularly Eric Weiss MD and Lou Saksen)—formed a Bioterrorism Preparedness Group to respond immediately and appropriately to any suspected cases of bioterrorism.

USPS—dealt with the aftermath of the Anthrax attacks and continued to provide excellent service by delivering mail and keeping their offices open to the public.

American Red Cross Palo Alto Area Chapter Deployed September 11th Volunteers: The Chapter was second in the State of California for percentage of response based on chapter population and serves 250,000 people in Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, at Stanford University and Moffett Federal Airfield. The following Red Cross-trained volunteers and staff were deployed for assignments which lasted up to three weeks at a time following the September 11 attacks:

Ginny Anderson, WTC New Jersey, Disaster Mental Health

Vinnie Biberdorf, WTC New Jersey, Local Chapter Liaison

Ruth Anderson, WTC New York, Disaster Mental Health

Judy Boore, WTC New York, Disaster Mental Health

Rita Castro-Hawkins, WTC New York, Voluntary Agency Liaison

Don DeJongh, WTC New York, Family Services

Miriam DeJongh, WTC New York, Family Services

Ted Easley, WTC New York, Staffing for Disaster Services

Paige Filomeo, WTC New York, Disaster Mental Health

Adriana Flores, WTC New York, Disaster Volunteers

Lynne McCreight, WTC New York, Records and Reports

Edwin Ou, WTC New York, Logistics

Laura Quilici, WTC New York, Disaster Mental Health

Peggy Rogers, WTC New York, Disaster Mental Health

Richard Wing, WTC New York, Disaster Mental Health

Ann Ziman, WTC FMA Center, Family Services

Geoff Ziman, WTC FMA Center, Family Services

Karen Duncan, WTC NHQ Support, Public Affairs

American Red Cross Palo Alto Chapter (locally): Palo Alto Area Red Cross Chapter led by Executive Director Patricia J. Bubenik, staff members and volunteers assisted four local families with issues related to the September 11 disaster, including counseling the family of

a victim of the Pennsylvania air crash. Mental health disaster volunteers went to schools, PTAs, and church groups requesting help in the aftermath. Volunteers delivered materials to schools to assist with the conversations with children, teachers and parents.

The chapter staff also processed a total of \$1,168,737 in donations designated for the National Red Cross (between September 11, 2001 and June 30, 2002).

At the same time, the Chapter continued to respond to an increased interest in first aid and CPR classes and trained an increased number of disaster service volunteers who came in response to the September 11 tragedies. They also registered and placed an unprecedented number of volunteers who wanted to be of service within the community.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY SHARES A  
POEM ON FREEDOM BY WORLD  
TRADE CENTER VICTIM DAVID  
SCOTT SUAREZ

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 2002*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you excerpts from a story that World Trade Center victim David Scott Suarez wrote about two hiking trips he had taken several years apart, and a poem he wrote about climbing as a metaphor for life and for freedom. David writes about freedom, both in terms of the struggle to attain it and the unparalleled joy of having it. In a sense, David's story reminds us that freedom is not free. It requires hard work and undaunting perseverance. Freedom can only be attained when people work, together with others, exerting all of the collective strength of the unified group, to ascend its peak. One could interpret David's story to say that freedom is not even a choice, but rather a requirement for the realization of human potential, and that freedom should be our example to the world that we shout from the mountaintops.

David's parents, Ted and Carol Suarez, have so far had his poem translated into over 90 languages, including three of the major languages spoken in Afghanistan. They offer their son's story and poem in hopes that they will show all of the people of the world how much they have in common, so that we will always choose to communicate with each other rather than fight, and so that their son's death and the death of so many others on September 11 will not have been in vain. The following are excerpts from "Return to Freedom", by David Suarez.

My legs burned. My heart pounded. A bead of sweat ran down my forehead to the tip of my nose. I wiped it off with the back of my dirty arm just before it dripped to the ground. The air was cool and the wind grew fiercer the higher into the atmosphere we climbed. It froze sweat to my skin and blew my hair every which way, occasionally stinging my eyes. I looked up past Bob, who was directly in front of me, but I could not see our destination. The peak was covered in clouds. . . . Hail pelted my raincoat. The trail we'd been hiking quickly turned to a swiftly flowing stream. The sky lit up. Thunder cracked simultaneously. I began to hear the slow cracking of, not thunder but

wood. We all turned abruptly. A tree fell across the path 50 yards behind us, its top shattered and smoking.

Only nine miles to go, but the weather showed no signs of letting up. At night we were going to make camp on top of Mount Philip at 11,711 feet. . . . It was thirteen miles away and a strenuous climb from where we broke camp in the morning. Unfortunately, that day was worse than any other had been. Like myself, the other guys in the expedition were pretty melancholy. . . . All I could think about was the 40 pound pack and the ice covered ground that kept me from moving forward with any sort of speed. . . . It continued to storm.

I trudged on. Stepping one foot in front of the other. . . . If I'd had a choice I'd have stopped, but there was no choice. Stopping meant hypothermia, which was worse than walking. Hours later, we reached the top. My hands were red. The tips of my fingers were almost white; they were completely numb. The clouds were so thick I couldn't see more than a few feet ahead. Everyone else was in the same condition, some worse. . . . There were fourteen of us, only six were able to pitch tents. . . . We pitched one after another. I thought each one along the way would be my last. Finally we finished and everyone was safe. Then, miraculously, the moment our tent was ready for sleep the clouds blew away and the warm sun came out. . . .

That was it, I was the last man standing. I was so excited I started to run to the peak. . . . I reached it minutes later. . . . I leaned back against the flagpole that stood higher than everything else. A smile of contentment crossed my face. I shut my eyes and fell asleep to the sound of the American Flag snapping in the wind. I was free.

Three thousand miles and five years later I was feeling the same thing. Freedom, what a strong word it is. Millions of people had died in its name. Do people fully understand and appreciate this single word? Do I? A month earlier I sat out on the lawn under the shade of a tall oak attending my Asian philosophy class. After class I walked past a preacher yelling that all of my peers (and myself) were doomed to hell. I walked further and saw a stand with pictures of marijuana leaves all around, apparently fighting for its legality. I sat down and watched a couple walk past hand in hand and smiling. It was July 3. The impact of what was occurring before me hit me like a blow. I was living the dream that so many had died for. I belonged to a select group of people that could enjoy life as it should be enjoyed. In day to day life I often didn't realize that. . . . My mind and my talents marked the limits of where I could go. No one else dictated them.

Those thoughts reentered my mind as I climbed to the top of Sugarbush Mountain in central Maine. Climbing became a metaphor for life. We were almost at the top and the wind was blowing fiercely. We had entered the clouds and couldn't see a thing. At one point I opened my jacket and leaned into the wind. It supported my weight for awhile. Together we reached the top. We raised our hands and screamed loudly for the world to hear. We'd conquered this mountain. Although the steep slopes tried to keep us down, they couldn't. Although our lives threatened to trap us in dull routine, we escaped. We were in charge of our destinies, only us. For a moment the clouds cleared. It seemed as if we could see

the entire world at once. In silence we watched. We were free.

YOU ARE FREE

(By David S. Suarez)

The air is cool, the sky is dark, your muscles relax, while nature's breath fills your lungs

You have accomplished your tasks, felt the pain, and endured the pressure, a pressure so immense that you lived to escape

You have climbed to the very peak of the mountain and now relax on a rock, high above the trees while others sleep

You are enveloped by nature's beauty for just a moment you abandon your incarcerated body wholly relinquishing your ties to human nature and for only an instant, you become part of God you are free

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
JACOB HOLLINGSHEAD

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 2002*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Where Jacob Hollingshead has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Jacob Hollingshead has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Jacob Hollingshead has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Jacob Hollingshead must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award; and

Therefore, I join with Troop 269 and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Jacob Hollingshead as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 2002*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the community of Brownsville, Texas, for reminding our children about the values we uphold with "Violence Prevention Week" as the new school year begins.

Our school years now begin with concerns over not just grades and class assignments, but also the threat of gun violence. This reality confronts students and educational professionals each day they enter the classroom.

Here in Texas, we understand that promoting a safe and non-violent community begins at home, where life's first and most important lessons are learned. The logic that dictates that gun violence is driven by the mere existence of guns is inherently flawed. The dramatic increase in school violence during the last decade, without any correlating increase in gun purchases, is a testament to this.