

of normalcy. Yet, a year later, although life appears the same as always, there is a difference. Certainly, Congress is in the middle of its appropriations debates as it almost always is this time of year and Republicans and Democrats are embroiled in many of the same arguments that typically take place around now. However, there is now an underlying sense of wariness in our nation that didn't exist before—but this is good, as it shows that we have learned from last year's events. It demonstrates that as a nation, we have grown. September 11, 2001, wasn't that long ago, but America has lived a lifetime in the year since that fateful day.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON H.R. 3762, PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 540. Nine months ago, in his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush called on Congress to enact important new safe guards to protect the pensions of millions of American workers. The President called on Congress to move quickly to enact these important reforms so that people who work hard and save for their retirement can have full confidence in our retirement system.

In response to the President's call, the House immediately took action by holding several hearings on the Enron Collapse and its implications for worker retirement security. We heard from hard working Americans who loyally dedicated decades of their lives to Enron only to loose their life savings when the company collapsed due to corporate corruption. These employees were not millionaire corporate big wigs. They were regular blue collar Americans who had diligently saved their hard earned money for their family's future. We also heard from honest employers who voluntarily offer their employees retirement plans.

But the House did more than just hold hearings.

In April, this body took action and passed a comprehensive Pension Security Act, which would give workers unprecedented new retirement security protections and new freedoms to diversify their retirement savings. The Senate has yet to pass a Pension Security Act.

In April, the House took action and passed a Pension Security Act that would have helped protect thousands of Enron and WorldCom employees who lost their savings during the collapses due to corporate corruption. The Senate has yet to pass a Pension Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, more than 160 days ago, the House took action to help hard working Americans protect their retirement savings. The Senate has not yet acted on the Pension Security Act.

The President is waiting for a bill to sign to protect worker retirement savings from corporate meltdowns.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution because I strongly support the Pension Security Act passed by the House several months ago.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL LESLIE GEHRES

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a true American hero, Rear Admiral Leslie Gehres. A native of Newark in Wayne County, NY, Admiral Gehres will be honored by his community on Saturday, September 28, 2002, with the dedication of a monument and memorial exhibit at Newark High School.

Admiral Gehres began his long and illustrious naval career in 1914, when he enlisted in the New York Naval Militia. When his unit was mobilized on April 6, 1917, he was appointed to the rank of Ensign, and transferred to the regular navy, following completion of course work at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

Admiral Gehres became a Naval Aviator in 1927, and in 1929, trained and led "The Nine High Hats," a prestigious nine-plane acrobatic formation. After the outbreak of World War II, Admiral Gehres took command of Patrol Wing 4, and took part in the Aleutians campaigns. He was responsible for driving the Japanese out of the Aleutian Islands, and for his services, earned the Army's Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, and Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit. He was also promoted to the rank of Commodore for his leadership in that campaign, a rank that had not been given to any naval officer since Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry in the War of 1812.

Following his detachment from Fleet Wing 4, Admiral Gehres assumed command of the USS *Franklin* in the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Gehres courageously and successfully returned that carrier to the Naval Yard in New York, after being heavily damaged by Japanese forces. "For extraordinary heroism as Commanding Officer of the USS *Franklin*," read his Navy citation, Admiral Gehres was awarded the Navy Cross.

Mr. Speaker, Rear Admiral Leslie Edward Gehres passed away in 1975, but he will now be forever remembered for his heroism and selfless service to his nation, and I ask that this Congress join me in saluting his proud career, and in thanking the community of Newark, NY, for honoring his leadership and valor.

"LESS WE FORGET" THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

HON. BRIAN D. KERNS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. KERNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention an event which took place in my district over the weekend.

This past Saturday in Crawfordsville, Indiana, I had the honor of participating in a special ceremony to unveil the monument of the Ten Commandments. This monument was dedicated with over 100 of my fellow Hoosiers present. The monument depicts two tablets containing the Ten Commandments with the words "Less We Forget" inscribed between them.

La'Shar Sharp, who is only 15 years old is one of the key persons who made this memorial possible. Ms. Sharp had the vision of creating the Ten Commandments monument to be dedicated on the September 11 one year anniversary. The Hoosiers in my district took this young girl's vision and helped make it a reality. The Church of Pentecostals of Crawfordsville donated the land and the Allen Monument Company built the memorial. A number of other individuals, businesses and organizations contributed to the dedication ceremony, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars whose members raised the flag and served as the ceremonial color guard.

There is no better symbol for this memorial than the Ten Commandments. As you may know Mr. Speaker, the Crawfordsville Courthouse was forced to take down its depiction of the Ten Commandments. For this reason, I introduced legislation (H. Con. Res. 315), which would prominently display the Ten Commandments in both the House and Senate Chambers. It is important in these times of uncertainty that we be steadfast in our beliefs and mindful of our roots.

I would like to leave you with the words of Crawfordsville's Mayor Steve Gentry, who at the dedication said "The stone may, in time, grow old and become hard to read, but the words and their meaning will carry on for future generations. May God bless the effort that gave us this ceremony, and may God bless the United States of America."

FIRE PLAN ON FEDERAL LANDS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Colorado General Assembly concerning implementation of the National Fire Plan on Federal Lands. Joint Resolution 02S-1007, passed by Colorado's General Assembly, endorses H.R. 3948, introduced in the 107th U.S. Congress to improve the implementation of the National Fire Plan by reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface. I commend the work of the Colorado General Assembly for its strong efforts toward the betterment of the state and well being of the people of the great state of Colorado.

I hereby submit for the RECORD Colorado House Joint Resolution 02S-1007.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02S-1007

By Representative(s) Hefley, Alexander, Johnson, Madden, Snook, Witwer, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Dean, Fritz, Harvey, Lawrence, Mace, Marshall, Plant, Rhodes, Romanoff, Smith, Spradley, Stafford, Tapia, Velga, Vigil, Williams S., Decker, and Weddig; also Senator(s) Fitz-Gerald, Isgar, Tupa, Hernandez, Phillips, and Windels.

CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FIRE PLAN ON FEDERAL LANDS.

Whereas, The paramount goal of fire policy must be the protection of lives, homes, and communities; and

Whereas, 1.3 million Colorado citizens reside in and adjacent to forested areas with high wildfire risk, and the number living in a wildland-urban interface is predicted to increase substantially over the next few decades; and

Whereas, Hundreds of firefighters heroically put their lives at risk to save homes and communities every year; and