

urge all Americans to take steps to protect their families and loved-ones by installing and checking smoke detectors, practicing home escape plans, and identifying home hazards.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed during the beginning of October. No doubt, this act has roots that draw from the tragic fire that raged through Chicago in early October 1871, killing more than 250 people and leaving more than 100,000 others homeless.

The message of National Fire Prevention Week—to install and check smoke detectors, practice home escape plans, and identify home hazards—hits particularly close to home. During a warm July night earlier this year, a faulty electric wire breathed life into a fire that quickly engulfed a bedroom in my home. My young granddaughter was sleeping in this room at the time, when a smoke detector roused her from her sleep. Fortunately, the smoke detector also aroused my wife, who was able to evacuate my home and call the fire department before anyone was hurt.

That smoke detector saved the lives of my family. And yet, thousands of Americans die from fires each year. In fact, every 18 seconds a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in this country.

It only takes a few moments to install a smoke detector or ensure that one is working properly. Moreover, practicing an escape plan and checking around your home for hidden fire hazards can not only prevent considerable heartache for you and your family, it can reduce the number of fires our brave firefighters have to respond to each year.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to recognize National Fire Prevention Week. And I also ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their local police, fire, and rescue squads for their unceasing commitment to keeping our families and loved-ones safe.

WORLD SPACE WEEK 2002—SPACE
AND DAILY LIFE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations commemorates the beginning of the Space Age by celebrating World Space Week this October 4th through the 10th. Celebrated in nearly fifty nations, this week is designated to recognize the progress of technology, anticipate new economic opportunities and find new means for transforming life in space and on Earth to improve the lives of people around the world. The theme for Space Week 2002 is "Space and Daily Life".

The benefits of community participation in World Space Week are far reaching. It is a proactive way to demonstrate public support for space programs, encourage youth to learn about space and the possibilities of the future, promote institutions around the world that are involved in space and to foster international cooperation in space outreach and education.

I am proud to say that the 5th District of Maryland has a variety of dynamic activities that will allow community members to participate in Space Week.

The initiatives taken by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, the Office of Space Science Sun-Earth Connection Education Forum, the Living with Star Initiative, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and Maryland Space Business Roundtable have made it possible for every public high school and middle school in Maryland to receive information on World Space Week.

In today's increasingly technological world, it is vital to the future advancement of our country to encourage our youth to take an active learning interest in academic fields and career paths such as space, science and math.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, which is a school in Maryland's Fifth Congressional District that I represent, has responded to this need by organizing a panel discussion about space in conjunction with Goddard Space Center. This event is a testament to their dedication to academic excellence. Roosevelt High School has even been honored as a 2002 National School of Character, which recognizes their outstanding efforts to encourage the social, ethical and academic development of students through character education.

I would also like to commend the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland for its contributions to the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. The cutting-edge technologies they have developed have played a large role in attracting scientists, engineers and technicians who create next-generation spacecraft, sensor and instrument technologies which are used to benefit Maryland, our society and the international community.

Goddard is the lead center for the Living with a Star Initiative, a multi-year program that will eventually produce new systems, spacecraft and technology to study the effects of the sun on the Earth. In fiscal year 2002 I worked to help secure \$25 million for the program and I will continue to work to obtain such resources to help ensure the success of such projects in the future.

World Space Week 2002 serves as a positive voice in recognizing past and future accomplishments and innovations in exploration, development and use of space and space education for the benefit of all humankind and I am proud of the role that Maryland's Fifth Congressional District plays in promoting this week each year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, 2002, I was absent for personal reasons and missed rollcall votes Nos. 427 through 436. For the record, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on 427, "yea" on 428, "nay" on 429, "yea" on 430, "yea" on 431, "yea" on 432, "nay" on 433, "nay" on 434, "nay" on 435, and "nay" on 436.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on September 11 I joined with the students, teachers, administrators and parents of the Idle Hour Elementary School in Oakdale for a profound commemoration of those lost in the attacks on America. I know that our colleagues will be as moved as I was to hear the essays of three sixth graders: Emily Pertz, Justin Rigas and April LaValle. I am honored to share them with the entire Congress today:

SEPTEMBER 11

(By Emily Pertz)

September 11 was a painful and tragic event. It changed the lives of millions forever.

I don't know anybody who died in my family because of the attack, but knowing that a lot of kids became parentless that day is enough to make my family and I upset. Whenever we go over the bridge I see many buildings and then a big gap where the towers once stood. To me it is very upsetting to see. My family is more cautious than ever.

I think the attacks have changed both our country and our world. The United States became more united. The world together is fighting terrorism. But on the other hand, many people lost loved ones, and the world's tallest towers were destroyed. Many people are still mourning and are still heartbroken.

Our school has done many great things to remember the victims. We raised a lot of money to plant a memorial garden to honor the lives lost from our neighborhood. We made red, white and blue chains that connected every classroom to show we are united. Each student colored in two flags, one to take home and one to hang up in school. The day after the attack our school had a moment of silence. It really made me think and made me a little depressed.

The United States went through a lot, but no matter what we will always be united.

AMERICA CHANGES

(By Justin Rigas)

The terrorist attack made by Osama Bin Ladin and the Taliban on the Twin Towers, landmarks of our New York City Skyline, was a great tragedy. Thousands of innocent people died terribly as the buildings melted and crumbled to the ground. Children are left without their mothers and fathers, families without sisters, brothers, dear friends. Families are left without jobs, without their income, possibly unable to pay their bills and keep their house.

But America has stood together strong. In this moment of sadness and tragedy millions have come together with help and support. People all over our country, not just New York have sent donations of food, money and clothing to help those families that have lost those dear to them.

The events of September 11, 2001 have changed the attitudes of my family as well as millions of Americans. We all miss those we know and loved that are gone. The Americans innocence may never again be the same, not able to totally trust the safety we've somehow always felt. Many people hesitate to travel on airplanes which means less people are visiting places where the people there count on them to spend their money. It could hurt business in hotels, restaurants and stores.

We always need to be on guard that something terrible could happen again. Our government cannot sleep, it must always be searching for the next thing to happen.