

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of perhaps the worst day in U.S. history, September 11, 2001.

No one will ever forget where he or she was on that tragic morning. No one will ever forget the selfless and hardworking members of our firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and emergency response workers when the two towers of the World Trade Center collapsed and when the Pentagon was hit by a hijacked plane. No one will ever forget the gallant acts of heroism that occurred on United Airlines flight 93, as the actions of several individuals saved the lives of thousands.

September 11th unified America and re-awakened a spirit of patriotism and unity because it was on that day we were reminded that freedom is not free—that there is a price. With time to reflect on the terrible losses suffered that day and the threat of terrorism still present throughout the world, we realize now more than ever the debt of gratitude that we owe to those who place themselves in harm's way to protect our country and our people.

As I stand here before you today, we mourn for those we lost. Our prayers are dedicated to the heroic firefighters, police officers and emergency first responders, our military men and women and other ordinary Americans who have answered the call for freedom.

Again, as our country mourns and continues to heal, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to the families of our heroes. America continues to be tested but we are strong and will persevere!

HONORING SENATOR HIRAM FONG

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our friend and colleague, Senator Hiram Fong. Even though I did not serve with Mr. Fong, I admired his leadership in the Asian American community.

Senator Fong was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on October 15, 1906. He was one of 11 children born to Chinese parents. His work ethic was a good example to all that aspire to be successful. At the age of 4, Hiram caught and sold fish to contribute to his family. He worked hard as a shoeshine boy and sold newspapers when he was 7. Hiram attended Honolulu's public schools and went on to continue his education at the University of Hawaii and Harvard Law School.

Mr. Fong had a full public service career before he entered the United States Senate. He was a member of the Territorial House of Representatives where he would eventually gain many leadership roles. This helped him gain

support for statehood of Hawaii among his many colleagues. He also served in the Army Air Corp when he took a short break from the Territorial House of Representatives. He eventually retired honorably as a colonel.

The Senator is remembered for the many great things he did in Congress. He secured funding for the H-1 freeway which runs through Hawaii, established and nourished relationships between the United States and Asian and Pacific countries, and promoting civil rights by requiring auditors at polling sights to ensure minority voting rights.

He was also known for working in a bipartisan nature to obtain progress and policy for the citizens of our country. Hiram set an example for all who hold public office. Working with both sides of the aisle earned him a successful Senate record that many admire today.

Hiram Fong was a hard working man that gave a great amount of public service to the great state of Hawaii and our country. He provided big shoes to fill, being the first Asian Pacific American to join the United States Senate. I admired his courage and willingness when he defended the civil rights of the APA community and worked on the Immigration Reform Act of 1965. His true leadership contributed to eliminating the immigration quotas for the Asian and Pacific countries.

Senator Fong is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife Ellyn Lo. They had four children Hiram Jr., Rodney, Marvin, and Merie-Ellen.

My deepest sympathies go out to his family during this time of remembrance. Senator Fong will be greatly missed and his service will never be forgotten.

THE EXPIRATION OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor to protest the Republican leadership's refusal to renew the assault weapons ban. I have heard from law enforcement agencies across the country and citizens from my district urging Congress to take action and renew the assault weapons ban. It is unconscionable that this ban has been allowed to lapse and that we may again see assault style weapons on our street corners.

The assault weapons ban did not have to expire. There are several bills in both the House and Senate that would have extended the assault weapons ban and continued to protect our law enforcement officers from these dangerous weapons. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2038, the Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003, and H.R. 3831, Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act of 2003. Either of these bills would have successfully and seamlessly continued the protection established by the original assault weapons ban in 1994.

The Assault Weapons Ban has proven remarkably effective in reducing the use of assault weapons in crime. Since 1994, the proportion of assault weapons traced to crimes has fallen by a dramatic 66 percent. In addition, opinion polls show that 75 percent of the public supports the renewal of the assault

weapons ban. This legislation takes a commonsense approach that successfully protects the rights of those who collect or hunt and use weapons for legitimate recreational purposes, while also guarding the safety of our law enforcement officers.

On this issue, the Congressional Republican leadership has ignored the will of the public, the professional opinion of law enforcement agencies across the country, and even the views of President Bush who publicly stated his willingness to sign an extension of the assault weapons ban into law. I am saddened by this failure and I will continue working to reinstate the assault weapons ban and to provide our law enforcement officers with the greatest protection possible.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN KURT MARUNICK ON HIS SELECTION AS ONE OF TWELVE OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has given himself wholly to his country and his community. Senior Airman Kurt Marunick, from Dundee, Michigan, has been selected as one of the twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year. He represents the standard of excellence in service for today's men and women in the armed forces of this country.

As part of this award, Senior Airman Marunick will be honored at the Air Force Association National Convention in Washington, D.C. In addition, he will serve as a member of the Air Force Association's enlisted advisory council for the next year.

Senior Airman Marunick is assigned to the 347th Maintenance Squadron of Moody Air Force Base of Valdosta, Georgia. He was recently deployed to Iraq from February to April of 2004, where he received the Air Force Achievement Medal for "outstanding achievement" for his service. His service is known to have saved many lives and contributed greatly to the success of numerous missions.

In 2003, he was named Airman of the Year for Air Force Special Operations Command. The two awards show a true dedication to his work and fellow Airmen. His efforts are truly commendable; he is a role model who serves in an exemplary manner.

Senior Airman Marunick is a life-long resident of Michigan, graduating from Dundee High School and Eastern Michigan University. Not only does he serve as an example for all who wear a United States uniform, but he also serves as a role model for his friends and neighbors outside of the Air Force. He volunteers for many different charitable organizations, tutors at local high schools, and founded the Moody chapter of Airmen Against Drunk Driving.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in recognizing Senior Airman Kurt Marunick for all of his accomplishments. Our country is certainly a better place because of his efforts.