

McCarthy (CA)	Poe (TX)	Simpson
McCaul	Posey	Smith (NE)
McClintock	Price (GA)	Smith (NJ)
McCotter	Putnam	Smith (TX)
McHenry	Radanovich	Souder
McHugh	Rehberg	Stearns
McKeon	Reichert	Sullivan
McMorris	Roe (TN)	Teague
Rodgers	Rogers (AL)	Terry
McNerney	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (PA)
Mica	Rogers (MI)	Thornberry
Miller (FL)	Rohrabacher	Tiahrt
Miller (MI)	Rooney	Tiberi
Mitchell	Ros-Lehtinen	Turner
Moran (KS)	Roskam	Upton
Myrick	Royce	Walden
Neugebauer	Ryan (WI)	Walz
Nunes	Scalise	Wamp
Olson	Schmidt	Westmoreland
Paul	Schock	Wilson (SC)
Paulsen	Sensenbrenner	Wittman
Pence	Sessions	Wolf
Petri	Shadegg	Young (AK)
Pitts	Shimkus	Young (FL)
Platts	Shuster	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—12

Barrett (SC)	Chandler	Hastings (WA)
Bonner	Clay	Lofgren, Zoe
Butterfield	Conaway	Welch
Castor (FL)	Dent	Whitfield

NOT VOTING—11

Bachus	Cooper	Perriello
Boucher	Frank (MA)	Rush
Campbell	Kline (MN)	Stark
Cassidy	Miller, Gary	

□ 1615

Messrs. KISSELL, LEWIS of California, and DOGGETT changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 2009, I missed rollcall votes 86 and 87 while attending a meeting at the White House with President Obama concerning the state of our Nation's economy and financial system. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 86 and "no" on rollcall 87.

DISCHARGE AND RE-REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 183

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 183 and that the resolution be re-referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NYE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF CRASH OF CONTINENTAL CONNECTION FLIGHT 3407

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 183) expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 183

Whereas the people of New York have experienced a terrible tragedy with the loss of 50 lives in the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 in Clarence Center, New York, on February 12, 2009;

Whereas many of the victims of the crash were residents of New York, particularly of the close-knit Western New York community; and

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials have cooperated to respond to the emergency, investigate the accident, and provide assistance to families devastated by the loss of loved ones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407;

(2) honors those who lost their lives, including David Borner, Linda Davidson, Ronald Davidson, Alison Des Forges, Beverly Eckert, John J. Fiore, Ronald Gonzalez, Brad S. Green, Sr., Zhaofang Guo, Kevin Johnston, Ellyce Kausner, Goerges Karm, Nicole Korczykowski, Jerome Krasuski, Brian Kuklewicz, Beth Kushner, Madeline Loftus, Lorin Maurer, Donald McDonald, Coleman Mellett, Dawn Monachino, Jennifer Neill, Gerry Niewood, Johnathan Perry, Mary E. Pettys, Donna Prisco, Matilda Quintero, Marvin Renslow, Julie M. Ries, John G. Roberts III, Kristin Safran, Rebecca Shaw, Ms. Jean Marie Sreecz, Darren Tolsma, Susan Wehle, Ernest W. West, Douglas Wielinski, Shubin Yao, Clay Yarber, and Joseph Zuffoletto, as well as 10 others;

(3) expresses sympathies to the people of Clarence Center, the entire State of New York, and the Nation who grieve for the victims;

(4) commends the heroic actions of the first responders, emergency services personnel, and air traffic controllers; and

(5) commends the hundreds of volunteers who worked together to respond to the tragedy with tremendous courage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ARCURI) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 183.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to express my deepest sympathies to the families who lost loved ones in the tragic crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407. I can say, as an upstate New Yorker and as an American, the families and friends of those who were lost are in our thoughts and in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in very strong support of this resolution today that's being introduced by my colleague from New York, Mr. CHRIS LEE. This resolution, House Resolution 183, expresses condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of the victims of the February 12, 2009, accident of Flight 3407 which took place in Clarence Center, New York.

There were 50 people on board Flight 3407, including passengers and crew. Sadly, all lives were lost. Our sympathy goes out to the victims and to each and every one of their families, friends and loved ones.

Losing a loved one is tragic, but the loss is compounded when it's the result of an unfortunate and unforeseen situation. I'm hopeful that this resolution will, in some small way, comfort the families and friends of all of those who lost their lives on Flight 3407.

I also want to thank the first responders and those who are providing support and assistance to the families of the victims. Their efforts are appreciated.

The National Transportation Safety Board is thoroughly investigating every aspect of this accident. The Board is responsible for determining the circumstances and cause of this accident, and they will report back to Congress. In the meantime, I want to assure the families, the public, the Members of Congress, that those charged with the investigation of this tragedy will not rest until the cause of this aviation accident has been determined. The loss of even one life in an aviation accident is unacceptable, but the American public should know that our commercial airlines today are both safe and reliable.

The National Airspace System handles almost 50,000 flights per day and more than 7 million passengers annually. Since 2007, the commercial airline industry has maintained the lowest fatality accident rate in commercial aviation history. Up until this accident, the FAA reported no on-board fatalities in passenger operations in the past 2 years and now approaching almost 3 years with about 1.6 billion people transported during that period.

Despite the amazing safety record, I wish we lived in a world where we could eliminate all accidents and risks. While I don't believe that we can do

that, I do believe that we can continue to work as effectively as possible to do everything we can to avoid these types of accidents in the future.

Again, I want to express my condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims on board Flight 3407, and also to Mr. CHRIS LEE, my distinguished colleague from New York, and his constituents.

I yield to my colleague from New York (Mr. LEE) such time as he may consume.

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and appreciate the support from our State delegation, many of whom cosponsored this resolution.

I especially want to thank Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. SLAUGHTER who have exhibited untiring leadership in offering assistance in the days since this tragedy has struck.

The night of Thursday, February 12, was going along like any other winter evening in the small town of Clarence. Clarence is located less than 20 miles from the city of Buffalo. At the home of the Wielinski family, 22-year-old Jill was watching television with her mother Karen, while her father, Doug, was in the dining room doing some housework. It was at that moment that Continental Flight 3407 carrying 49 passengers and crew struck the Wielinski home, taking Doug's life. All on board the plane were lost.

Each and every soul is a significant loss to our community. Among them: a prominent human rights activist; a September 11th widow; a retired Air Force reservist; an accomplished jazz guitarist; the cantor at a Williamsville temple; the director of a youth service program; a program manager for Northrop Grumman; a nurse at Westfield Memorial Hospital; a second-year law student; the daughter of a Holocaust survivor; a Vietnam veteran with two Purple Hearts; and lastly, a personal friend who was expecting the birth of her first child due at the end of May.

At that moment about a quarter mile away, Clarence Center Fire Chief David Case was also having a quiet evening at home when he heard on his radio that a plane had crashed and struck a house nearby. Chief Case was one of the first to arrive on the scene that night, but by no means was he by himself. Volunteers from throughout Clarence were assisted by crews from Newstead, Akron, Harris Hill, Rapids, East Amherst, Swormville, Amherst, Millgrove, Bowmansville, the Village of Lancaster, Brighton, and the Buffalo Niagara International Airport's Aircraft Rescue Firefighter unit.

Their efforts were supported by hundreds of volunteers who gave their time and energy to support the first responders and the families of the victims.

Last night, Chief Case sat in this very gallery just a handful of rows away from the First Lady as the President of the United States addressed Congress on the state of our Nation.

Chief Case did not come here to accept the salutations normally afforded everyday heroes among us. He said he came "only to be a representative of the men and women of Clarence Center Fire Company and all of the first responders."

To those first responders and all of the volunteers, I simply want to say thank you.

Chief Case was indeed a fitting representative for a small and proud town that just last year celebrated its bicentennial. Clarence is where my wife and I chose to make our home, and it is where my 3-year-old son will grow up; and I hope that he, in turn, raises a family there as well.

Since the night of this accident, we have been posting on our Web site messages from families of the victims. Thoughts and prayers have come in from all around the country. One message we received was from Holly Henderson, a Clarence resident, and it reads:

"I'm a Clarence resident and a frequent traveler. I thank all of those who were deeply concerned for me, my family and neighbors and ask that they continue to pray for the souls whose lives ended in such tragedy. It is awesome to see how the community has put up ribbons and have come together in this time of crisis. It confirms why I moved back to this area after being gone for so long and feel very proud to be part of this great community in western New York where the people are truly the best in the world."

Of course, this resolution is not nearly tribute enough to the memories of the victims and the courage of their families, and the echoes of the shock and grief we felt that long Thursday night are still with us. We can find comfort in the fact that even in tough times like these, families and communities come together, rally around one another and do whatever they can to help those in need.

Again, I thank the members of our delegation for their support and for this resolution.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I urge all Members to support the resolution before us, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Clarence for his leadership in bringing this resolution, and also I'd like to thank him for the courage that he showed. As soon as this happened, he immediately recognized where his duty was, and that was to be home in Clarence, and he immediately headed home to be there to help to show leadership, to show his constituents where his priorities were; and that was at home where he was needed most.

□ 1630

So I thank him for what he has done. Clearly, this has been a shock to his community and to the entire country. Certainly, while the whole country has

felt it, no one has felt it more than western New York.

I would like to yield 3 minutes to my colleague from western New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you, Mr. ARCURI. I, too, want to join you in commending our colleague, CHRIS LEE, for going back to assist in the recovery effort. I spent time with the Congressman on Saturday, where we toured the site with several other officials.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in offering sincere condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the crash of Flight 3407.

What was for many to be a joyous reuniting of family and friends became a time of unspeakable grief and sorrow. An ordinary evening in a home in a suburban Buffalo neighborhood became a family's tragic nightmare.

The victims of this tragedy need our support and empathy during this difficult time in their lives. My community has demonstrated great strength and compassion as it mourns the loss of 50 lives of those loved ones, many of whom were vibrant members of the western New York community.

Our community's response has included professional and spiritual counseling, as well as donated meals and thousands of letters offering sympathy and support. The families will undoubtedly experience difficulty and sadness in the days ahead, but I am confident that the loving embrace of the western New York community will continue to comfort and sustain them.

Mr. Speaker, I also ask that you join me in thanking the first responders, including many police and firefighting agencies, who worked through the night and each succeeding day in the recovery effort. Their work is an inefably beautiful tribute to the decency of the human spirit and to their professionalism. They deserve our respect, our admiration, and our deepest gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy and the loss to the Buffalo community is profound, but the love and support of our community is much greater. I am thankful to those dedicated individuals who responded to this disaster and to those who are offering counseling and support to the families and workers still trying to come to grips with this terrible tragedy.

We will never forget those we lost that night. I am pleased to join my colleague, CHRIS LEE, in offering support to all of those who knew them and who loved them. I thank CHRIS LEE for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to again thank my colleague, Mr. LEE, for his leadership on this bill. And I would urge a "yes" vote on this resolution.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, less than two weeks ago we learned about a terrible accident in Clarence, New York, a few miles outside of Buffalo.

Our worst fears were confirmed when it was reported that many lives were lost.

I know that the pain of the families and friends who lost loved ones on Continental Connection Flight 3407 is immeasurable. My prayers are with them today and always.

An accident like this is always a tragedy but when it happens so close to your home, it is particularly devastating.

In Western New York we take care of each other.

After the accident, first responders and ordinary citizens rushed to the scene to do their best to save lives.

They are heroes to us for their tremendous efforts.

As we grieve and pay tribute to those we have lost, I stand in unity with my colleagues, state, and local officials, to continue assisting our community during this difficult time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 183, which expresses sympathy to those who lost family, friends, and loved ones in the tragic crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407. The lives of all 49 passengers and crew on the flight were lost on February 12, 2009, when Flight 3407 crashed in Clarence Center, New York, about 5 miles outside of Buffalo. The plane crashed into a house on the ground, killing one person inside as well.

The Bombardier Dash 8 Q400 was en route from Newark liberty International Airport and it had begun its descent into Buffalo Niagara International Airport. The flight was operated by Colgan Air. The flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder that were recovered from the crash reveal that the plane underwent severe changes in pitch at about 1,600 feet above ground level before it crashed.

Emergency personnel responded to the scene immediately after the crash to quell the fire and contain the accident scene. The National Transportation Safety Board also responded, sending investigators to the site to conduct an in-depth investigation. Not much is known for sure at this point. It is known that the plane was flying in icing conditions, on autopilot with the de-icing system activated. The NTSB investigation will likely explore many issues, such as icing, pilot training and procedures, and aircraft design. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will watch the investigation as it unfolds with keen interest.

This accident, along with other recent aviation safety events, underscores the importance of not lowering our guard on aviation safety. It is unfortunate that this tragic event occurred. I hope that the findings of the investigation will lead to further improvements in aviation safety that will prevent this type of disaster from occurring again.

I thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. LEE, for bringing H. Res. 183 to the floor, and my sympathies go out to the people of your district. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ARCURI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 183.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FEDERAL RESERVE IS THE CULPRIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reserve is the culprit; it has delivered this crisis to us. The Federal Reserve's low interest rate policy is a big mistake; it is not a panacea.

Artificially low interest rates are achieved by inflating the money supply. Low interest rates penalize the thrifty, and those who save are cheated. It promotes consumption and borrowing over savings and investing. Manipulating interest rates is an immoral act, it is economically destructive. The policy of artificially low interest rates caused our problems and, therefore, cannot be the solution.

The market rate of interest is crucial information for the smooth operation of the economy. A central bank setting interest rates is price fixing and is a form of central economic planning. Price fixing is a tool of socialists and destroys production.

Central bankers, politicians and bureaucrats can't know what the proper rate should be. They lack the knowledge and are deceived by their aggrandizement. Manipulating the money supply and interest rates rejects all the principles of the free market.

Ironically, free markets and sound money generates low rates, but unlike the artificially low rates orchestrated by the Fed, the information conveyed is beneficial to investors and savers.

The Congress, by conceding this authority, conveys extraordinary economic powers to the elite few. This is a power that has been abused throughout history. Only the Federal Reserve can inflate the currency, creating new money and credit out of thin area, in

secrecy, without oversight or supervision.

Inflation facilitates deficits, needless wars, and excessive welfare spending. Debasement of a currency is counterfeiting. It steals value from every dollar earned or saved. It robs the people and makes them poorer. It is the enemy of the working person.

Inflation is the most vicious and regressive of all forms of taxation. It transfers wealth from the middle class to the privileged rich.

The economic chaos that results from a policy of central bank inflation inevitably leads to political instability and violence. It is an ancient tool of all authoritarians.

Inflating is never a benefit to freedom-loving people. It destroys prosperity and feeds the fires of war. It is responsible for recessions and depressions. It is deceptive, addictive, and causes delusions of grandeur with regards to wealth and knowledge.

Wealth cannot be achieved by creating money by fiat. It instead destroys wealth and it rewards the special interests. Depending on monetary fraud for national prosperity is a reversal of our downward spiral is riskier than depending on the lottery.

Inflation has been used to pay for all the wars and empires, and they all end badly. Inflationism and corporatism engenders protectionism and trade wars. It prompts scapegoating; blaming foreigners, illegal immigrants, ethnic minorities, and too often freedom itself for the predictable events and suffering that results. Besides, the whole process is unconstitutional. There is no legal authority to operate such a monetary system. So let's stop it. Let us restore a policy of prosperity, peace and liberty. The time has come. Let's end the Fed.

CONGRATULATING JOYCE BEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, last week, in Galesburg, Illinois, I held a town hall meeting to discuss the economic recovery package. While I was there, I told a standing-room-only crowd that Joyce Bean, who manages my Galesburg office, was retiring after 26 years of service to the 17th Congressional District. Joyce received a standing ovation. That one moment captured just how much the people of Galesburg, Knox County, and the 17th Congressional District and I appreciate her service.

Joyce has spent her entire career giving to others. As a member of the Communication Workers of America, the United Way of Knox County, and a longtime staffer to my predecessor, Congressman Lane Evans, she made a lasting impact on so many people's lives.

Upon receiving a prestigious community service award from the United