

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CUBA, NY AND ITS
LIBERTY POLE COMMEMO-
RATING 9/11/2001

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Cuba, NY, who tomorrow will dedicate a 150-foot flag pole, which they have dubbed the Liberty Pole, to commemorate the tragedy that befell our great Nation on September 11, 2001. I will have the honor of being at that ceremony, where I will see flown for the first time a large American flag that flew over this storied chamber only days ago.

Cuba, like thousands of small towns across our Nation, experienced the tremendous sadness and loss of that day, and like their fellow Americans they rose to the challenge, sending dozens of people to Ground Zero to assist in the rescue efforts. Volunteers from their fire department, ambulance corps, and local charities all donated their time, efforts, and equipment. These were acts of individual heroism, but more importantly, they were the acts of a selfless, compassionate, and patriotic community who answered the call for help in our Nation's time of need. Tomorrow, that community will come together to fly our Nation's flag atop the Liberty Pole, one of the tallest flag poles in the country.

As a veteran, our country's flag holds special meaning in my heart. Like so many before and after me, I rose in the morning and retired each night honoring our Nation's flag, privileged to have the duty of defending it from those who would cause what it stood for harm. In Cuba tomorrow, as that great flag flies over us, we will be reminded that this sacred duty is not exclusively that of the soldier. Men and women from all walks of life, privileged to be citizens of this greatest nation on Earth, share in this duty and in the responsibility of passing this flag and its solemn significance on to future generations of Americans. There have been 26 predecessors to our current fifty-star flag, but the American ideals of freedom, liberty, and of shared sacrifice represented by our flag have remained unchanged since our Nation's inception.

The Liberty Pole in Cuba will now stand for generations as a testament to the enduring patriotism of a community and of the resiliency of the American Spirit. Each day, our Nation's flag will fly atop its mast, reminding both the residents of Cuba, NY, and our Nation not only of the events of September 11, 2001, but of America's ability to overcome adversity, to share in sacrifice, to confront her enemies, and to build a brighter and more prosperous future for her children. These qualities will ensure that our Nation will always overcome tragedy, and it is these qualities that will forever make our Nation great.

IN MEMORY OF NICHOLAS
MATTHEW SKALA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Nicholas Matthew Skala for his extraordinary service to our country. He dedicated his short life to advocating for full health care coverage for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Nick wielded a sharp intellect in his pursuit of single payer health care. I first met him when he was working for Physicians for a National Health Plan (PNHP), where he quickly became a trusted and valuable source of knowledge. He was always ready with an answer to the hardest, most arcane questions and he had the references to back his answers up.

When Nick spoke about single payer health care, he was lucid and persuasive. He wielded complete command of a steady stream of facts and figures. He earned the respect of health care advocates of all stripes not only by making a persuasive case that single payer was needed, but also by working tirelessly and strategically to make it a reality.

When it came to social justice, when it came to making sure everyone had the best health care possible, when it came to standing up to powers and pressures that keep America without guaranteed health care for all, Nick was admirably uncompromising.

Born in Libertyville, Illinois on September 16, 1981 and raised in Spring Grove, Nick graduated from Richmond Burton High School and Columbia College. While in Texas, he founded and became the President of the University of Houston Campus Greens Chapter. After graduation, he became a Research Associate for PNHP between 2004 and 2007. Then he enrolled in law school at Northwestern University. He became active in the American Constitution Society. In the summer of 2009, he completed an internship in the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. He would have graduated from law school in 2010.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating and honoring the life of Nicholas Matthew Skala and in recognizing his contribution toward making the world a better place. Thank you, Nick.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE REGARDING SEPTEMBER
11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as an American and Representative of the 9th

Congressional District of Texas I would like to express my support for H. Res. 722, which recognizes the victims and heroes of the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001.

This year commemorates the eighth anniversary of 9/11, which lives on in the hearts and minds of Americans as we mourn and remember the lives lost in that tragedy. On September 11, we will honor the memory of the 3,000 men, women, and children who were taken from us, pay homage to the countless lives who have died defending our freedom, and service men and women currently fighting in combat zones across the world.

Moreover, on this September 11, Americans will for the first time honor the victims and heroes of 9/11 by serving their neighbors and communities in the first National Day of Service and Remembrance. This federally designated day was created as a part of bipartisan legislation in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which was signed into law by President Obama on April 21, 2009. In the spirit of unity and compassion, Americans everywhere will join the President and Mrs. Obama in service projects at schools, hospitals, and communities.

As we honor the sacrifices of our fellow Americans through our own service in communities across the nation, let us renew our devotion to the universal ideals that make our Nation great: freedom, equality, and democracy. On September 11, 2009, let us forget our differences and embrace our common heritage as one people, the American people. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 722.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE REGARDING SEPTEMBER
11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, we come together as a Nation once again to commemorate those who perished on September 11, 2001, and to renew our commitment to each other and to our Nation's ideals of tolerance and freedom. Though the years have passed, the memory of that day and of the heroism displayed by rescue workers and ordinary Americans is not diminished.

I hope you will join me in a day of reflection, as we contemplate how each of us can draw strength from this tragedy and help create the America we'd like to see. Our Nation's strength lies in the ability to welcome dissent, but it is my hope that this day can remind us of our common humanity: that we are more joined than divided. And although we may disagree on the means for how to deal with climate change, health care, and economic recovery, to name but a few of our challenges, these are priorities for us all.

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