

IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE SENSE OF TERRORIST ATTACK

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, words cannot begin to express the emotions that Americans all across this country are experiencing after Tuesday's events. We are all grief stricken. We are stunned. We are amazed. We are angry. And amongst these emotions, we are just simply trying to make sense of it all.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I stand here to say that it is impossible to make sense of it all. It is impossible to make sense of the loss; possibly in the tens of thousands of Americans have lost their lives in these recent terrorist attacks. Innocent civilians, military officers, men and women not fighting a war but innocent mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, who were only going about their daily routine.

I would like to reiterate the words expressed by Leonard Pitts, a columnist for the Miami Herald, who is also trying to make sense of these recent events, and I quote: "Did you want us to respect your cause? You just damned Your cause. Did you want us to fear you? You just steered our resolve. Did you want to tear us apart? You just brought us together."

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are a united Nation, a united country, the United States, today, tomorrow, and forever, and we will overcome.

AMERICANS SHOULD NOT TURN ANGER AGAINST ONE ANOTHER

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, this is a time for Americans to stand together through our grief and our frustration and even our anger. But I wanted to come down here this morning to say how important it is that we do not turn our anger on one another.

We are beginning to hear some disturbing reports of acts of bigotry against people who are perceived to be or who are Arab Americans or people who are wearing turbans; of angry mobs, angry crowds coming to a mosque; a person wearing a turban being thrown off a train. It is only a victory for those who would perpetrate acts of terrorism against us if we begin to turn against one another.

There are millions of Arab Americans who contribute, who died in the explosions and the attack and who are mourning, along with all the rest of Americans. We cannot as a Nation allow our grief to turn into acts of violence or acts of bigotry against one another.

I would just urge that we hold hands, that we stand firmly together to oppose this terrorism, that we stand with our allies around the world, and that we look to embracing each other as Americans to fight this enemy.

ANNOUNCEMENT TO COLLEAGUES REGARDING ACTIONS THEY CAN TAKE

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make some announcements to our colleagues.

First of all, our colleagues can call my office today to cosponsor a Declaration of War Resolution that I have prepared which will be introduced within the next several days. This Declaration of War gives the White House the authority and the ability to declare to specific terrorist groups that in fact we are at war with.

Number two, our colleagues can call my office and cosponsor a joint resolution creating a joint task force between the U.S. and Russia to combat terrorism. This comes about because of communications I have received from the Russian Duma offering to work with us. The Russians have the same threat that we do, and this is an opportunity for us to work together.

Number three, our colleagues can join next week in State Farm's announcement of several hundreds of thousands of dollars going to the Police and Fire Foundation to benefit the families of those police and firefighters who are currently missing in New York.

And, number four, our colleagues can join the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and I as we announce next week the creation of a multimillion dollar fund to support the Police and Firefighters Hero Scholarship Fund in New York so that we can provide for full college scholarships for every son and daughter of every police officer and firefighter in New York City who is determined to have been killed in this terrible tragedy.

I urge my colleagues to join with us in these efforts.

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACK

(Mr. PASTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, this morning, again, I extend my condolences and my most heartfelt sympathies to the loved ones and families of the people that were victims in this tragic event. My prayers go out to the families that are looking with hope to find their loved ones. My gratitude

continues to the men and women who are endangering their lives looking for victims. And my hope is that those that were injured will recover quickly.

It is a time of anger, a time of fear, but we need to ensure that our Constitution does not become a victim. We need to protect and ensure that we protect our civil rights. We also need to ensure that our democracy does not become a victim. We need to ensure that we protect the separation of powers. We need to ensure that the executive branch works with the Senate and the House in concert, in order that we bring about a resolution.

Our American spirit will help us overcome this great tragedy, and may God continue to bless America.

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HEROES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday morning, a passenger named Jeremy Glick called his wife from United Airlines Flight 93 as it flew over Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Jeremy knew he was going to die, and told his wife he wanted her to have a good life and asked her to please look after their 3-month-old baby girl. Then Jeremy and another passenger named Thomas Burnett charged the cockpit to overcome the hijackers.

The plane crashed in a field, killing all of its passengers but no one else. It has been reported that that plane was headed for Andrews Air Force Base on a mission to take out Air Force One.

Ali Taqi, a 24-year-old firefighter from Michigan, hopped in his car Tuesday and drove all the way to New York City to see if he could help out with rescue efforts.

Tuesday morning, hundreds of firefighters, police officers, EMS workers charged into the first of the twin towers only to lose their lives when the second one was hit, and both buildings collapsed.

Mr. Speaker, every one of these people is an American hero.

Passengers on Flight 93 literally gave their lives to save others.

Nathan Hale rued the fact that he had "but one life to give for his country." None of us has more than one life to give, but the way Tuesday's heroes gave theirs and the way today's are risking theirs to search for survivors will be remembered forever.

SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)