

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 stole 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.

□ 1015

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.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we begin as a Nation to rebuild our lives and rebuild our spirit. September 11, 2001 was a day of infamy without comparison. But as we move forward to acknowledge and thank and praise those heroes, those firefighters and police persons, we must also embrace and collaborate and love those families.

Today I stand and ask the Nation to remember the children, children now that are left without mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts and uncles, children who are left without care. These children must be embraced by this Congress and this Nation.

We must be reminded of the necessary resources to help them build their spirits, their lives, to keep them in these very cold nights, and to be sure that they grow up knowing that this is a Nation of freedom and one that will not abandon them.

As we remember our children, remember they come in all races, colors, creeds and religions. Let us stand away from accusing and threatening different ethnic groups that we may think are involved. Let us stand for what is right and let us find the facts. Let us stamp out terrorism. Let us know what is right. Let us not attack and forget the Constitution and what this Nation was built upon.

Mr. Speaker, I expect to offer a resolution that will deal with our children, focus on them, and help us help them by making sure that we have both the resources and the infrastructure to deal now with lonely children left all over this country because their parents have not returned home. Heroes that they may be, but they have not come home to these children.

This Nation has higher angels and it is now time for those higher angels to take the realm of government, to fight to stamp out terrorism, but never forget our people. For this is the land of the brave and the free.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT EVERY CITIZEN IS ENCOURAGED TO DISPLAY THE FLAG

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider in the House the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 225) expressing the sense of the Congress that, as a symbol of solidarity following the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, every United States citizen is encouraged to display the flag of the United States; that the concurrent resolution be considered as read for amendment; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to final adoption without intervening motion, except 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by

myself and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) or a designee, and one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the unanimous consent request just agreed to, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 225) expressing the sense of the Congress that, as a symbol of solidarity following the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, every United States citizen is encouraged to display the flag of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of H. Con. Res 225 is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 225

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed four commercial aircraft, crashing two of them into the World Trade Center in New York City, and crashing another aircraft into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas thousands of innocent people were killed and injured as a result of those attacks, including the passengers and crew of the four aircraft, workers and visitors in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, rescue workers, and bystanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) in response to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, United States citizens should join together to defend and honor the Nation and its symbols of strength; and

(2) for a period of 30 days after the date on which this resolution is agreed to, each United States citizen and every community in the Nation is encouraged to display the flag of the United States at homes, places of work and business, public buildings, and places of worship to remember those individuals who have been lost and to show the solidarity, resolve, and strength of the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON). Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a very heavy heart that I ask this resolution be brought today to the House floor.

No one will ever forget what happened to this great country on September 11, 2001. As a Nation, we speak with one loud, strong and determined voice in solidarity. We must rise up from this horrific act and rally together as Americans, regardless of race, creed or religion. I can think of no better rallying tool to demonstrate that unity than the American flag.

The American flag has long been a symbol of freedom for our country, but

we are well aware that this freedom has always come with a price. Be it the price paid by our soldiers who died defending the freedoms of our great Nation or those involved in this week's tragedy, the sacrifices for freedom, for democracy and for peace must never be forgotten.

For that reason, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and I have introduced this resolution, the solidarity flag resolution.

This resolution calls upon each and every American in every community throughout this great Nation to demonstrate their unity for our country by flying our flag, our most enduring and visible symbol of freedom, at home, at businesses, schools, and places of worship for 30 days. That demonstration of unity requires communities to join together at city councils and school board meetings and civic organizations and in State legislatures, to hold Old Glory high and proud, and to show the world that liberty, justice and courage live on in America.

Mr. Speaker, we have an unbreakable and unwavering and unshakable spirit in this country and we have an enduring commitment to the preservation of freedom and democracy. No act of terrorism will ever be able to break that.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, first let me congratulate and thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), for pioneering this resolution. I have a special thanks to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) and to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader. It is a pleasure and an honor to cosponsor this with my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is one that will have hopefully a healing power for Americans, one that asks each American to renew his or her allegiance to our country.

Every day when we come into this Chamber, we pledge allegiance to the flag. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Of course, we are also led in a prayer by the Chaplain. This flag symbolizes so much. It has reflected so much goodness and greatness through the years, that in times of stress and sorrow we feel a special need and obligation to rally around it. That is the purpose of this resolution.

This flag was originally flown in a different form, of course, by those in the Revolution, down through the years, the War of 1812, out of which came the story of the poem, later put to music which we now sing as the Star Spangled Banner. Down through the years of the challenges and conflicts our country has sustained, our flag has