

Our nation's admiration and respect for the firefighters, police officers and medics, many of whom lost their lives in the line of duty, in deep. Valor, courage and selflessness were commonplace yesterday, as many rescuers became victims themselves.

Our hearts go out to the victims' families and friends who today must cope with their excruciating loss. As shock abates, the numbing pain of yesterday's terror will leave indelible scars. May God supernaturally intervene with healing, comfort and peace.

Mr. Speaker, the cowards who perpetrated these crimes against God and Humanity must be brought to justice no matter how long it takes. And, by the grace of God and the crafting of wise policy initiatives, this must never happen again.

Two years ago, in light of the growing danger of international terrorism, I authored the Embassy Security Act (H.R. 3427) to provide \$6 billion to make America's foreign embassies and missions stronger and safer. This week, we learned that even this large sum was not enough to deter those with an absolute disregard for the value of human life. We must and will do more.

Those who wish us harm should know that Americans are strong, determined and resilient. America is united, not to be underestimated.

In like manner, President Bush is strong and determined, fully in charge, not to be underestimated, and will lead us with boldness and prudence.

Finally, America's foundational strength isn't to be found in its military might or relative prosperity—but in our individual and collective faith in, and faithfulness to, God.

May this horrific act of mass violence compel us to turn anew to God seeking healing, restoration and justice, as well as divine guidance, so that His will *will* be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF SENATE
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REGARDING TERRORIST
ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen from New Jersey and California for their leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues who have offered their voices before mine, I too arise in strong and unyielding support of this resolution.

We are a strong and a resilient people who have, in our past, been called to duty, to perform extraordinary feats in extraordinary times.

Minute by minute reports of heroic events continue to flow in from all sites of this tragedy. These reports, each and every one, bear witness to the long held belief that we are a people of purpose and our actions, in this time of crisis, are guided by our love of our fellow men.

Many generations ago we were warned that each generation would be called upon to polish, sustain and improve this great republic. We were also told that these occasions could come disguised in many ways.

Tuesday's events have signaled to this generation, to those of us here, to those we represent, to every man, woman, child, individually and collectively, that our time, our test and our challenge, to maintain our republic's destiny to be the beacon of hope and freedom for the world is here and now, the wait is over, the question is answered.

My heart and my hand is offered, along with every other in this historic room as a supporter and a champion of this resolution. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, should I enjoy the technology to ask, right now, each and every resident of Idaho's First District the question of how I should vote on this measure, there would not be a dissenting vote.

Let's note for the record, Mr. Speaker, that we Americans chose neither the time nor the place for this, but that those soul-less terrorists who have made their choice known by these acts, have grossly underestimated the sterling resolve that historically visits this Nation during our time of need.

Mr. Speaker, we must now bury our fallen, and with heavy hearts, prayerful lips, but a firm belief that our lost are with our Creator and have joined in a celestial song to march us into the battle which we now willingly engage.

May the very God, whose existence these terrorists deny, grant them sufficient time on this Earth to have these horrors visited on each and every one of them and anyone else who may have given them cause or quarter.

May this same God smile on this vote we now offer, this nation we speak for and this purpose we undertake.

SIKHS ARE NOT MUSLIMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in general I have been proud of America's response to the attack on our country that took place Tuesday. There have been no threats against the embassies of countries that might be involved. There have been no riots while the police have been concentrated in one particular area. However, there is one disturbing element. A number of Sikhs have been attacked by ignorant people seeking to vent their anger at what happened. In New York, an old Sikh man was beaten with baseball bats. A couple of young Sikhs were attacked Wednesday afternoon in Brooklyn. Sikh businesses have been stoned and cars have been burned. Apparently, these Sikhs were targeted because of their turbans and beards, which are required by their religion.

It would be grossly unfair to attack Muslims, even though Mr. bin Laden, who appears to be the prime suspect, claims to be an adherent of the Muslim faith. I know many Muslims and they are good people who are not involved in this kind of activity in any way. Yet

what makes these attacks even stranger is that Sikhs are not Muslims. They don't even wear a turban the same way. Sikhism is an independent religion. It is not part of Islam; it is not part of Hinduism. Sikhs are identified by five specific markers: uncut hair covered by a turban, a kirpan, or ceremonial sword, a bracelet, special underwear, and a special comb. These are distinct identifiers and are required by the Sikh religion.

I call on the media to report on the attacks on Sikhs and note the fact that they are not connected to the terrorist campaign in any way and have, in fact, condemned it. I urge the media to speak out against the attacks, and I urge President Bush to do the same. Let's not attack anyone for his or her religion or the way he or she looks. Those who do so are cut from the same cloth as Mr. bin Laden. In America, we do not accept that.

The Council of Khalistan, which is the organization representing Sikhs, has written a letter to the President and a press release strongly condemning the attack Tuesday. I would like to place them in the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CONDEMNS ATTACK ON
UNITED STATES

URGES SIKHS TO GIVE BLOOD

WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER 12, 2001.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today condemned the brutal attack on the United States that occurred yesterday.

"On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, I would like to express our sadness and our sympathies to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States yesterday and for the loss of life it entails," Dr. Aulakh said.

"I urge Sikh Americans to give blood and to pray for the victims, for their families, and for all those who are helping our country and our communities in this time of need," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must do our part as American citizens," he said. "We stand together as a nation."

"Like all Americans and all decent people everywhere, we condemn this brutal and senseless attack. The Sikh religion recognizes all the human race as one and we pray for the well-being of all. Our prayers and our sympathies are with the people of the United States at this tragic time. We especially pray for the families of those who have departed."

"This tragic event happened in the most diverse city in the world," Dr. Aulakh said. "There is hardly a national or ethnic group that has not been touched directly by this tragedy. Our sympathies are extended to those who have been touched personally," he said. "Violence against innocent people of any religion or ethnicity is unacceptable. It must be ended."

Unfortunately, some people have engaged in violence against Sikhs in the wake of the bombings yesterday. A couple of young Sikhs were attacked in Brooklyn. Sikh businesses have been stoned and cars have been burned. A Sikh boy was even shot in New York.

"Today we all stand together as Americans, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity," he said. "We must not accept terrorism. We must unite against this evil," he said. "We must work to bring all Americans together to defeat this brutal enemy."