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

SPEECH OF
HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 12, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, H. Con. Res. 225, and commend the gentle lady from Missouri, Congresswoman EMERSON, for drafting this and commend the gentle lady from Missouri, expressing sense of Congress.

I extend my condolences to the thousands of victims and their families throughout our Nation who have suffered from these terrorist attacks, and, particularly, to my colleague from New York, Mr. CROWLEY, who lost his cousin, John Moran, a New York City fire fighter, who died on Tuesday at the tragedy at the World Trade Center. Our prayers are with you and your family, and we commend your cousin John for paying the ultimate price for those in need. Our Nation’s fire fighters, law enforcement, and emergency personnel are the pillars of our community. Our entire Nation mourns when we lose any brother or sister in uniform.

Following the barbaric terrorist attacks on our great Nation, earlier this week, thousands of Americans joined together to donate their time, services, and blood to the victims of this tragic day. These charitable acts reflect the compassion of the American spirit and the respect for life we share as a nation.

This resolution further calls on our American citizenry, to raise up the flag of our Nation as a symbolic gesture of the solidarity of our Nation and as a proclamation to the cowards who perpetrated these heinous attacks that we, as a nation, continue to stand as the beacon of freedom in this world. Their attempt to bring chaos and terror to the hearts of Americans—Americans—are stronger than them. Where can my heart go when there is no sanctuary, no haven, no safe haven? Where can my heart go when there is no space that is not filled with God? I refuse to conceive of any space that is not filled with God. I place my brother in that space, wholeheartedly. He can’t leave that space, it surrounds him and upholds him and guides him.

I see my brother continuing to walk through life, as he has every day until now and will forever, with the glory of God shining through him. I’m not seeing his life as something that can end. I’m seeing it as eternal, as full, complete, ideal. I’m clinging to this, because the thought that there may be death to deal with in my family’s future cannot be the final word. The final word must be Life. It must be God.

God is there, in New York, in Jerusalem, in Washington, in Baghdad. God is here with me in Boston. It’s not a bunch of gods scattered all about, but the one God, literally filling all space, in offices, stairwells, plazas, airplanes. I refuse to conceive of any space that is not filled with God. I place my brother in that space, wholeheartedly. He can’t leave that space, it surrounds him and upholds him and guides him.

I dig deep into what I know to be true. There is only one God, divine Life, holy Love. The God that my brother loves and serves is the God that connects us all—terrorist and victim alike. My thought serves is the God that connects us all—terrorist and victim alike. My thought is my prayer for my brother.

PRAYER FOR WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the following prayer is from the website spirituality.com. It can inspire us all.

WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER: MY PRAYER FOR MY BROTHER
(By Laura Matthews)

At the moment I write this, I’ve just heard that one of the World Trade Center buildings has collapsed. My brother works in that building, and there’s been no word. I’ve been in touch with my family around the world, and we’re all praying. This is my prayer for my brother.

Where can my heart go when there is no news, and perhaps no hope? I must go to God. I must go to the one almighty God. I must come to the one who is the king of kings, the Lord of lords. I must come to the one who is my brother’s life and my brother’s God.

God bless the American people and the United States.