September 14, 2001

the opportunity to teach and test other pilots. Many of his counterparts recognized Jason as a very capable and skilled captain.

Mr. Speaker, the wishes of the terrorists aboard United Flight 93 may never be understood, but we can deduce that something went wrong in the pursuit of their ultimate objective. Jason was probably the reason behind the failure of their mission, and in so doing, he saved American lives. While many people died in this tragedy, we must recognize the greater triumph of the situation and the battle against terrorism that was claimed in this particular moment. Mr. Speaker, Jason Dahl emerged as a national hero on September 11 and I would like to acknowledge his patriotic sacrifice. My warmest regards and deepest sympathies are extended toward his family at this time of remembrance. Jason Dahl will be remembered as a hero who gave his life to America and we will all miss him dearly.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. Speaker, yesterday our great Nation suffered the most violent and costly attack on American soil in our nation's history, and our lives will never be the same. The attack was aimed at the heart of our country, and the attackers hoped to break the spirit of our citizens. The cowards who attacked us clearly misunderstood the strength of character and resolve of the American people. We do not back down in the face of hardship, and we will prevail over our enemies, no matter how long it takes.

Terrorists may shatter our buildings, but they cannot shatter our commitment to the values we hold most dear: freedom, democracy, liberty, opportunity. These are our cornerstones today not only to defend ourselves and punish those who attacked us, we must also commit to rebuild the lives and the innocence that have been shattered. As the scope of the devastation becomes clearer, our task will only grow more serious and important, but I know that we will rebuild our world.

As we move forward to rebuild what has been shattered, we must put our world back together in a way that is mindful of not only our profoundly rich history and traditions but is also mindful of that which connects all of humanity. We are blessed by the assistance and efforts of countless rescue workers who are risking their lives to rescue victims; I commend their courageous work and believe that their efforts should be examples to us all as we each make our own contributions to the recovery efforts.

Finally, we must not let feelings of anger and frustration rob us of the very things that make our country great. Make no mistake, we will find those responsible for these terrible attacks, and hold them responsible. In doing so, however, we must be thoughtful, careful, and deliberate. We must and will remain vigilant in the defense of the liberties of our citizens. America can be safe and free, and our best days remain before us. God bless America.

Providing for expedited payment of certain benefits for public safety officers killed or injured in connection with terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H.R. 2882, expediting payments to the families of the brave public safety officers killed or injured in the line of duty during the heinous acts of terrorism against the United States which occurred on September 11, 2001. Our Nation owes these heroic men and women our deepest gratitude and we extend our sympathies to the families of their fallen comrades. At this time of national tragedy, let us acknowledge the ongoing sacrifices that our Nation’s brave public safety officers continue to make as they selflessly continue to serve the country. And may the ultimate sacrifice of their comrades never be forgotten. We pray for the safety of our public safety officers and the safe return of their fellow officers who remain missing. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.