

I join with all of the residents of Montgomery County in wishing her and her husband a wonderful retirement. She has truly earned it. I thank her for her selfless service to our community. She is a true public servant and I am honored to count her as a friend.

WORLD TRADE CENTER AND  
PENTAGON TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, like most of my fellow Americans, I am at a loss for the appropriate words to express how angry, how appalled and how deeply saddened I am about the violence that was committed against our country this week.

And yet, I see acts of resolve and courage around me—the rescue workers risking and losing their lives, the long lines of blood donors, the American flags waving proudly from houses, from barns, from cars and from schools—I realize that no mere words can make the American commitment to freedom any stronger than it already is.

This country was the target of a faceless, voiceless aggressor who stole the lives of thousands of innocent people but who now lacks the courage to stand up and tell us who they are or why they did what they did.

But let this enemy rest assured that we are not a nation in hiding and have not become the victim of helplessness or fear. Rather, we are a country that is finding tremendous strength from some deep place in our collective spirit, and that strength will take us in the coming days, weeks and months where we as a nation need to go.

As for the thousands of people who lost loved ones in this senseless tragedy, I wish I could personally speak to each one, shake their hands and tell them what heroes they and their loved ones are in this country's eyes. But they probably already know that. If not yet—they will in time.

There is one thing I can say with certainty and that is this: America is on the threshold of change. It will never be the same, and as I personally mourn and grapple with frustration and sift through the rubble of what happened all around me, I am also prouder to be an American that I have ever been in my life.

THE BATTLE OF AMERICA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, a secondary blast at the Pentagon rocked my building as I prepared to leave for the Capitol. I walked down East Capitol while people streamed out of the House Office Buildings and passed me on the street. The Capitol Hill police were cordoning off the area, sirens wailing in the background; no one was permitted further entry and Members of Congress were barred

from their own offices. Another hijacked plane was in the air and one presumed destination was another target in the Capitol.

The Members of Congress, gathering at police headquarters to be briefed and set up makeshift offices, recalled Pearl Harbor. I thought of the Battle of Britain and Hitler's indiscriminate bombings of London. Churchill's words still so powerfully resonant. "He hopes by killing large numbers of civilians and women and children that he will terrorize and cow the people of this mighty imperial city . . . Little does he know the spirit of the British nation or the tough fiber of the Londoners . . . who have been bred to value freedom far above their lives."

So true of America. Little do these petty tyrants and murderers know the spirit of the American people or the tough fiber of the New Yorkers, our defense workers, or the civilians who may have spared further casualties by taking down the hijackers and their own plane above Pennsylvania.

Firefighters and police officers by the hundreds rushing into the collapsing wreckage of the World Trade Center to rescue the victims, many, God bless them, so many, losing their lives in the process. One firefighter, injured and lying in the hospital, telling the Governor of New York: "What d'ya expect? We're New Yorkers." God, they make me proud.

American doctors, nurses, search and rescue teams from all over the country, by car, bus and train, using any means to come to the wounded and offer their help. Citizens all over the country lining up to donate blood, so much blood, in lines up to four hours long. Children outside the federal building in Oklahoma, site of another terrorist attack, putting their Teddy Bears in a box to be sent to the children in New York—now orphaned. "We just want them to know they will be all right," an Oklahoma boy says as he drops his bear in the box.

The face of this tyrant is new, and yet not so new. Like Hitler, he abhors a free society and democratic institutions. He is willing to kill innocent men, women and children to further his perverse aims; there are no means too inhuman, no tactic too appalling to further his ends. He thinks we are weak, because we do not tell our citizens what to think, how to act, whom to worship. Because we tolerate dissent. He does not realize this is our strength. And he has awoken the sleeping giant.

"What he has done," as Churchill had said, "is to kindle a fire in [American] hearts here and all over the world which will glow long after all traces of the conflagrations he has caused in [New York, Washington and Pennsylvania] have been removed."

What these petty tyrants do not understand, have never understood, is that for all our rough-and-tumble public discourse, we are one people, acting under one President, and capable of greater single-mindedness of purpose in times of adversity than any repressive regime. These acts of terror will not divide us. All Americans—young, old, Democrats, Republicans, men, women, Christians, Moslems and Jews—are united against the common foe.

We will not be turned against each other. We will not tolerate acts of violence against Moslem Americans, many of whom lost their

lives, serve as police and firefighters in the rescue effort, and all of whom are equally repelled at these atrocities. We will not relinquish our freedoms of speech, assembly and religion, nor sacrifice our precious right of privacy or way of life. "The price of freedom is high, and Americans have always paid it," President Kennedy said. We pay it still.

This is the Battle of America. The enemy may be new, but the fight has always been the same. Our government, our democracy is predicated on basic human freedoms, on the right of the governed to control their own national destiny. The civil war tested whether any nation so conceived could long endure. We have endured. We will go on, with growing confidence that we can fight terrorism wherever we find it, and strengthened by the conviction that the generation of Americans now being tested will not falter or flag.

PROVIDING FOR EXPEDITED PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS KILLED OR INJURED IN CONNECTION WITH TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this President, this nation and this legislation. The devastating and cowardly attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, the American people, and free democratic societies everywhere must be responded to with the swift justice and mighty force of the United States military and our allies. We must continue to stand together to make it through this most difficult time. We must also support the victims, families and the heroic search and rescue teams currently working tirelessly in New York as well as the on-going investigations of these deplorable acts. Yesterday, we voted for the Victims of Terrorism Relief Act of 2001 to provide tax relief for the victims of this heinous attack on our soil. In addition, we passed legislation that will expedite payments of certain benefits to public safety officers. These are just two of the necessary steps to ensure the largest possible benefit to the families of those who have paid the greatest possible price. Today, we must focus on the vast work that remains to be done. None of this, however, will be feasible without significant resources that are dedicated to their intended purpose.

As we enter into a potentially prolonged attack on terrorism and its sponsors throughout the world, we must be prepared for the consequences of this significant decision. We must take steps to ensure that the resources are available to secure our skies and protect our people. These steps must include funding for fortifying our military, upgrading our intelligence, and security needs, while simultaneously supporting those who are suffering from the effects of the devastation of a few short days ago. The supplemental funding that

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we are voting on will support our military, rebuild our city, and assist those who are suffering. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues, united with our President and in defiance of those who believe that they can threaten our freedom. I support this legislation and pray for the victims, the rescue workers and all Americans.

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## TERRORIST ATTACKS

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the cowardly act of violence that besieged our nation yesterday. Today, we stand as a nation resolved to continue our way of life. National symbols of power were shaken, but the true strength of the country, our people, remain solid.

We will act swiftly to determine those responsible for this cowardice and retaliate against the perpetrators. We continue to support our Commander in Chief as he leads us through this truly horrible time for our nation.

I commend those citizens of all walks of life who became America's heroes yesterday as they worked to rescue the injured and console families of victims. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are injured, those who lost their lives, and those who are courageously involved in rescue efforts. We will come together as a nation by giving blood, donating our time and services to help the afflicted, and flying our American flags proudly.

Members of Congress and citizens across the country today refuse to be frightened and demoralized as we attempt to pick up the shattered pieces of our lives and restore some semblance of normalcy to our daily routines.

However, this indeed is a dark time for America, which has generated grave memories that will last forever. What is important now is that we face and learn from this solemn chapter in our history. We must reassess our national security apparatus and come to terms with those lapses in security that allowed these terrorists to take root on U.S. soil. But, make no mistake, the rest of the world should know—and know so resoundingly—that the United States will not tolerate cowardly acts of terrorism.

I agree wholeheartedly with the President that we will make no distinction between those who committed this barbaric act of cowardice and those who harbor and give them sustenance. All of the perpetrators of these dastardly deeds must come to feel the full force of our power—unleashed in all of its awesome might.

Surely, the wounds inflicted upon our national conscience by this horrendous act of terrorism are deep. However, while we have suffered a tremendous loss, our resolve to confront and defeat the evil that brought about this tragedy has only been strengthened.

I stand behind the President at this moment of national sorrow. As a nation we are united in our unyielding determination to prevail against terrorism and those who support it.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO TERCERA IGLESIA  
BAUTISTA ESPAÑOLA

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tercera Iglesia Bautista Española, a treasured Bronx institution and a historic house of worship that celebrated its Centennial anniversary September 15, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Tercera Iglesia Bautista Española was founded between the years of 1900 and 1902. As one of the first Baptist churches of its kind, serving a largely Hispanic congregation, it has become an invaluable part of Hispanic-American history and American history in general. Located on Alexander Avenue, the church stands as a beacon of true beauty in the heart of the south Bronx.

Throughout its 100 years of existence, Tercera Iglesia has been a model of excellence with its numerous and far-reaching community services. Not only are Bronx residents able to come to Tercera Iglesia for spiritual enrichment and fellowship, they can come to the church for assistance with life's daily trials. The church's pastor, Reverend Dr. Jose D. Rivera-Tormos serves as a pillar of the community and as an exceptional spiritual guide for his congregation. Reverend Rivera-Tormos is blessed with a dedicated and competent staff of church officials who go beyond the call of duty daily.

Mr. Speaker, beyond Tercera Iglesia's wealth of community programs and remarkable religious activities, its very structure makes it a priceless institution. The building was designed at the turn of the century by architects Ward and Davis who implemented modern techniques in its construction. A delicate balance of elaborate decor in the entrance and simple rustic design throughout other parts of the church make it a unique structure worthy of commemoration.

For the past century, hundreds of thousands of Bronx residents have found solace and aid within the walls of Tercera Iglesia Bautista Española. I hope that all of my esteemed colleagues will join me in honoring this sacred and historic institution on its centennial anniversary.

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TRIBUTE TO BARRY RASCOVAR

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Barry Rascovar, one of the most well-respected journalists in Maryland who recently retired from the The Baltimore Sun. For more than 20 years, Barry's strong editorial voice has reverberated throughout Maryland. His insights and knowledge of Maryland politics and politicians has made his twice-a-week column a "must read" for anyone who cares about Maryland.

Barry graduated with honors from Dickinson College and holds an M.S., with honors, from

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Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He also holds a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from both Towson University and Villa Julie College. Barry started out as a reporter on The Baltimore Sun's city desk in 1969. He quickly moved to covering the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis and to news editor of The Baltimore Sun's Washington bureau. Since 1979, Barry has been deputy editorial page editor of The Baltimore Sun, shaping the voice of Maryland's largest daily newspaper.

We are fortunate that Barry has many talents. He is the respected author of "The Great Game of Maryland Politics," and he edited and authored "Marylanders of the Century". He also has helped the younger generation understand the intricacies of government as an adjunct professor for the Department of Government and Public Administration at the University of Baltimore.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting Barry Rascovar, an award winning journalist who has the respect of those he worked with and those he covered. His 32-year career in journalism helped make The Baltimore Sun a respected and knowledgeable voice in our region. His retirement is a tremendous loss to all those who admire and respect his intelligence and integrity.

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## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to the tragic acts of terrorism that occurred in New York, today I joined President Bush, along with the majority of the New York delegation, to view the scene of destruction and witness firsthand the incredible recovery effort. Unfortunately, I was unable to return to Washington to cast my vote for H.R. 2888. Had I been present, I would have supported this important emergency appropriation measure that helps set New York City on the path to restoration.

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## A LETTER FROM CHRIS JOHNSON

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in light of the tragic events of September 11th, I would like to present a letter that my son, Chris Johnson, wrote:

There's so much to say about the 4 plane crashes on Tuesday, it's hard to know where to start. First of all, I feel very, very, sad about the horrible loss of life in these crashes. I am also feeling very grateful for the courage of many Americans—both on board the airlines that crashed, as well as the rescuers who have volunteered to help in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

Tuesday's attacks on our country were sickening acts of evil. They make me feel angry and revengeful and protective of my