

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