country. My dad called us from Washington, D.C. right after the third hijacked plane hit the Pentagon building. They had just evacuated the Capitol building and he was calling to say he was OK. I wasn’t worried. I have a lot of confidence in my dad and I know that he is a survivor. I think the citizens of our country should feel the same and remember that our elected officials are working diligently to do all that they can to help keep our country safe and protected. Our President and our Congressmen, now more than ever before, need our full confidence and support.

My mom’s best friend lives in an apartment building in New York City, right across the street from the World Trade Center. She called my mom Tuesday night to tell her she was alive. She ran outside of her apartment Tuesday morning in her pajamas, to see what was wrong and saw the second plane fly into the tower right over her head. She reported to my mom that she ran for her life down the street and then over the Brooklyn Bridge (barefoot and in her pajamas!) to safety across the bay. She said that the steel and glass was raining down from the sky onto her head. She was instantly so overcome that the glass windows of her apartment building were melting down the side of the building. She has lost everything she owns, but she is alive. We just thank God she is alive.

Many people, thousands, are not alive today. They did not survive this horrible, cruel, evil, inhuman attack on our country. They have mothers and fathers and children who are heartbroken and suffering a horrible loss. While nothing can be done to bring back the loved ones, we can do something to honor them. We can make a difference.

There are no words that can lessen the sorrow his family, friends, and colleagues are experiencing. It is always difficult to cope when someone is taken before their time, but the sense of loss is somehow amplified by the tragedy of these horrific circumstances. I hope that his family is comforted by the knowledge that he was admired, respected, and appreciated by all of us who knew him on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting General Maude. We will miss him.

STATEMENT ON H. CON. RES. 225—EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT EVERY CITIZEN IS ENCOURAGED TO DISPLAY THE FLAG

SPEECH OF
HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to vote for this resolution that I co-sponsor with my colleagues urging people to fly the American flag. Tuesday’s act of terrorism is one of the greatest challenges in the history of our country. In times of austerity, in times of national peril, this is the greatest we have ever seen on U.S. soil—it is important to unite, to come together, to comport, indeed, to ‘rally around the flag.’

In light of the tragedy that has struck directly thousands of families, we urge people to fly the flag to honor the victims of this horrible assault on humanity, on the United States. The flag is an enduring symbol of American democracy and American freedom. It is a symbol of the courage and the bravery and the essential human kindness of our people. Its display—especially at times of national tragedy—is yet another in a number of spontaneous and empirical, very human responses that we have witnessed in the last 48 hours.

Let the flags around the country as they fly and are displayed in neighborhoods and on our buildings, send the signal that the United States remains united. We are so sorry and in such sorrow at the horrible loss of life and the unspeakable agony of those affected by this event. We are equally determined to ensure that the perpetrators of this crime will be found and properly punished. We will do everything in our power to make sure that what happened a couple days ago never, ever happens again.

Finally, we are determined to adjust and adapt to this new world to give our government and our country and our people and institutions the support and unity which all of us need at this most trying moment for America and the American people.