Over his career, Mr. Foster has traveled extensively throughout the world, and his success in his business dealings for the Port is matched only by his role as an ambassador for the Bay Area and the Nation. He is the best of what America has to offer the world—committed to partnership and sound relations with those who are engaged in the growing world community.

I am most appreciative to Chuck for the way he has attempted to address the needs and concerns of the residents of Oakland, particularly in West Oakland. The presence of residential neighborhoods in areas adjacent to industrial activity will always create tension and Oakland has been no exception. However, Mr. Foster saw to it that community groups had not only a voice, but a role to play in the Port’s various activities and expansion projects. He has always sought to achieve a proper balance between economic growth and community needs. He formed community advisory panels for both the airport and seaport development planning processes and opened a Port office in the West Oakland neighborhood most impacted by the Port’s maritime activity to ensure appropriate community outreach. These efforts have created an atmosphere of more than simply goodwill, but one of cooperation and a sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, as Charles Foster leaves behind a long and rich history at the Port of Oakland, I would ask that Congress join me in expressing my support of H.R. 2882, to ensure that our public safety workers have coverage as a result of the recent terrorist acts. It is my belief that it is our responsibility to redress this situation in a timely fashion.

At the onset of the horror that we experienced on the eleventh day of this month, a victory was won in the hearts of all Americans. These brave individuals are winning the War each and every second. True honor and patriotism shall be bestowed upon them. By now, we have all seen the bravery and extraordinary effort that the Fire Fighters and Police Officers in New York and Washington as well as the rescue workers in these areas. The amount of courage that has been displayed by these individuals is incredible and will forever be remembered. It is now our responsibility in light of the current circumstances to make sure that the families of these public safety workers feel the confidence that the Congress will help ease their burden. I commend each and every one of these workers and their commitment to excellence as shown over these events.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, join me in praising our fallen public safety officers for their extraordinary commitment to the community. They have earned and deserve our recognition, respect and praise. We will never forget these workers.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, join me in expressing our thanks to him for his 15 years of service there and his earlier contributions to the nation in uniformed and civilian life. I am proud to recognize Chuck Foster’s esteemed accomplishments and to extend my best wishes to him in his well-earned retirement.