

the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, or in the four hijacked airliners on September 11th. The Breast Cancer Research stamp has raised \$20 million since its inception in 1997.

The funds raised by the September 11th Families Stamp would be distributed by the Office of Victims of Crimes, in the Department of Justice, and would be tax-exempt for the recipients. The stamp would be issued by December 1, so that it is available for the holiday season, and would be in circulation for two years.

And I am very pleased to say that this is only one of several ideas put forward to help the families torn apart by last week's terrible events. My colleagues, Representative ACKERMAN and Representative FOSSELLA, have a bill to issue a stamp specifically for the families of the firefighters, police, and rescuers lost in this tragedy. Representative ENGEL has introduced a bill to issue a commemorative coin to do much the same. Representative LAFALCE has put forward a Victory Bond bill as yet another excellent way to allow Americans to give to the relief effort. And Representative VELÁZQUEZ has introduced legislation to allow people to devote their tax refunds to the relief efforts more easily.

I think it is absolutely wonderful to have so many options before the Congress. And I hope that more members will come up with such good ideas and keep introducing legislation to help the victims. But I also want to encourage the leadership to use these ideas in developing a comprehensive package to build upon America's generous desire to help all the victims of these unspeakable events.

Clearly, nothing will ever make up for the terrible loss our countrymen have suffered. But we can at least help make their lives easier as they go forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAWSUIT  
ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK: SEP-  
TEMBER 17-21, 2001

**HON. ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, while the tragic events of last week remain paramount in our hearts and minds, I, nonetheless, rise today to recognize Maryland Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (MDCALA), who joins thousands of Marylanders in declaring the week of September 17, 2001, to be Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week.

MDCALA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, legal watchdog organization dedicated to improving the civil justice system. Over the last six years, MDCALA has worked to educate Marylanders about the cost of frivolous litigation. With more than 10,000 supporters statewide, MDCALA emphasizes the negative consequences that lawsuit abuse has on the public.

Maryland is home to many large corporations and family businesses. Yet, the constant fear of lawsuits threatens the economic vitality of our State. Small businesses simply cannot afford one frivolous lawsuit. In order to compensate for potential legal bills, businesses

are forced to raise prices to protect their bottom-line. Lawsuit abuse, therefore, results in higher prices, increased medical expenses and loss of business growth.

Through public outreach programs, MDCALA increases awareness of frivolous litigation and the need for personal responsibility throughout the State. In particular, the MDCALA sponsored an essay contest for high school seniors earlier this year. In a terrific example of the concern of our next generation of voters, students from throughout Maryland took the time to craft thoughtful, well-written essays on the importance of personal responsibility in their daily lives.

As a former member of the Maryland General Assembly, I worked hard to reform our legal system at the State level. During my tenure in Congress, I have supported efforts with respect to product liability reform, securities litigation reform, and reform of the Federal Superfund program. More importantly, I sponsored legislation that has helped reduce, in my view, frivolous class action lawsuits brought against mortgage brokers.

Legal reform is a very complex issue. The legal system must function to provide justice to every American. This does not mean, however, that the status quo is necessarily perfect. When lawsuits and the courts are used in excess or to the detriment of innocent parties, the system should be reviewed and reformed if possible.

For their efforts, let me acknowledge MDCALA Chairman, The Honorable Phillip D. Bissett; Board of Directors—Joseph Brown, Jack Doll, Janna Naylor, Vikki Nelson, Gary Prince, The Honorable Joseph Sachs, Dr. Michael Saylor, and The Honorable Michael Wagner; and Executive Director Nancy H. Hill.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I remind our citizens that frivolous lawsuits—nationwide—clog our courts and prevent access to legitimate litigation. We must work together to implement common sense reform in order to restore fairness and justice to our legal system. I commend these citizens, and all involved in this worthwhile effort, for their dedication and commitment and to acknowledge this week as a time of public awareness on the serious issues associated with lawsuit abuse.

AUTHORIZING USE OF UNITED  
STATES ARMED FORCES  
AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST  
THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I traditionally do not support the use of military force to pursue our national objectives. In the past, I felt that we often resorted to military force too early, resorting to military reprisals before we explored all of our diplomatic options or fully questioned our motivations for such action. But today we are facing a different situation altogether.

I will support this resolution. The attacks on America only three days ago, without a doubt,

were an act of war and unmitigated aggression against our country. I will not spend another day of my life without remembering the nightmare of that day. And I, like every other American, know that such assaults on our freedom cannot go unanswered. We have no other option but to respond.

Still, I hope that the president will fully realize the awesome power he has been given and that he uses its full strength only after all other options to protecting our freedoms and bringing our attackers to their knees have been exhausted. The president must use this power prudently and with the understanding that many of us who vote today to approve this power do so with a heavy heart.

Nonetheless, we have no other option. I never thought I would find myself in this situation, where I would agree with many of my more eager peers, that force would be a legitimate option. But I, like my colleagues, know that we have no other choice. Faceless aggressors have challenged our society's core principles and I am confident that the ideals of our great land will prevail.

We will complete our objective and will not yield until we find and mete out justice to those nations, organizations or persons behind those horrific attacks. Yet I remain confident that we will not fall to the level of the terrorist. I know that the president will use our military force to make the world safer for free peoples and be careful not to wantonly crush innocent souls purely to make a point. Our motivations are right, our goals are just and I know that we will use our awesome military power to make the world better for all of us who embrace freedom in our hearts.

AUTHORIZING USE OF UNITED  
STATES ARMED FORCES  
AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST  
THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 64/S.J. Res. 23, the use-of-military force resolution. By passing this resolution, the House of Representatives will send a clear message to our country's enemies—the United States is resolute. We stand with the President. We are united in defending our freedom and our liberty.

I spent the last two days in New York, offering assistance and comfort to my constituents in this time of great tragedy. Earlier this afternoon, I toured lower Manhattan with the President and other members of the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut delegations.

Over these last few days I have not been able to truly describe the landscape of destruction. When I walk among the rubble I am speechless. I have often thought that perhaps I should call upon religious scholars or poets to try to put these visions into words—I do not think I am up to the task. It is an indescribable place.