EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE TERRORIST ATTACKS LAST WEEK IN NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, many thousands of families across this Nation were hurt in terrible and tragic ways by the terrorist attacks last week in New York City and Washington, D.C.

For them, there will be no closure, a word I dislike, because I believe it is simply a word used by those not directly affected to make themselves feel better.

Those who lost loved ones or those who suffered very severe injuries will have to learn to cope with their losses and/or their injuries in the best way possible, but it will be extremely difficult, especially for parents or parents lost a mother or father.

So I certainly do not in any way want to minimize their losses.

But, there has been an outpouring of love, kindness, and patriotism like I have never seen in my lifetime.

There are thousands of people across this country attempting to do everything they can to bring good out of this bad, triumph out of tragedy—horrible, horrible tragedy.

We have all been moved by many wonderful people and the stories of the good they have done.

But I want to especially call to the attention of my colleagues, and readers of the record all over the Nation, the actions of Melissa Kesling and the words of Justin Wright, two outstanding young people from East Tennessee.

Melissa is a 15-year-old sophomore at Farragut High School in West Knox County, just outside the City of Knoxville.

She had worked for many months as a clerk in a doctor's office and as a babysitter to save money for a trip to Spain.

On her own, without her parents ever knowing, she donated her entire savings of $1,100 to the American Red Cross to assist in their work arising out of these attacks.

Justin is a fifth-grade student at Ball Camp Elementary School, also in Knox County.

He was given an assignment to write about his feelings following the tragedies of September 11. He wrote the following words (words I wish all Americans could read):

ATTACK ON THE U.S.A.

I wonder why someone would do such a horrible thing? Whoever caused this tragedy will be greatly punished.

If some people did this, I believe in their ability to find and punish the morons responsible. I am still very upset, and I wish I had some way to help the government find the person to blame.

If I were old enough, I would volunteer to be a fighter pilot and help punish these terrorists.

I feel so sorry for all the victims and their families. I am glad that my family was neither on the airplanes nor in the damaged...
William McDonough has dedicated his professional life to strengthening the economic and spiritual ties between our environment and ourselves. It is therefore fitting that he is being honored with the 2001 Josephine and Frank Duveneck Humanitarian Award. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in honoring this special man who has given so much to our community and our environment. We are indeed a better country, a better planet and a better people because of him.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIREFIGHTERS OF THE THIRTYMILE FIRE

HON. JAY INSLEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of four heroic individuals from Washington State who gave their lives protecting our precious national forests. On July 10, 2001, Tom Craven, Karen Fitzpatrick, Jessica Johnson, and Devin Weaver died while battling a fire in the Okanogan National Forest. The House of Representatives, rightly so, has already passed a resolution honoring these firefighters, but I would like to share with my colleagues, and indeed the rest of the nation, a little more about these courageous young Americans whose lives were cut far too short. Tom Craven, from Ellensburg, began working for the Forest Service as a firefighter in 1990. Tom earned 11 letters from Cle Elum High School in football, track, and basketball, and played football at the College of the Redwoods in Eureka, CA. He graduated from Central Washington University in 1997, and was the first member of the Craven family to graduate from college and obtain a degree. A devoted family man, Tom is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and his two children.

Karen Fitzpatrick, of Yakima, had just graduated from West Valley High School where she was an honor student, soccer player, and musician. She was involved in the Department of Ecology’s Youth Corps, active in her church and the Kiswanis Club, and loved to cook, bake, and sew. Karen is survived by her parents, John and Kathie Fitzpatrick.

Jessica Johnson, of Yakima, graduated from West Valley High School in 1999 and was a junior at Central Washington University majoring in Food Science and Nutrition. She loved the outdoors and was strong in body and spirit. A volunteer at West Valley Fire Department since 1998, Jessica is survived by her parents, Jody Gray and Rick Johnson.

Devin Weaver, of Yakima, was enrolled in Yakima Valley Community College since 1999 and was planning to pursue a degree in Electro- Engineering from the University of Washington. Devin enjoyed backpacking, hunting, and camping in his free time. Since the eighth grade, Devin worked for his father’s silk-flower manufacturing business and always volunteered for extra work assignments. Devin is survived by his parents, Ken and Barbara Weaver.

Firefighters are on the front lines, every single day, saving lives and safeguarding our property and natural resources. While most of us would immediately flee a smoky, fire-engulfed home, building, or forest, these brave souls choose to enter these dangerous places sacrificing their safety for ours. I want to thank them personally for their bravery and their courage. Their heroism is of the same rank as so many other American patriots who have lost their lives in service to our country, Tom, Karen, Jessica, and Devin—you are in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN BATTLE

HON. JOHN LEWIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to salute and pay tribute to Kathleen Battle, a lyrical legend whose contribution to the spirit of music is beyond measure.

In classic, poetic soprano, Kathleen Battle has captivated millions through her performances around the world. The purity and projection of her voice has earned her broad acclaim as one of the premier vocalists of all time. Her range travels through the era of Baroque and into the realm of folk and contemporary jazz.

Kathleen Battle has distinguished herself as one of the finest interpreters of Mozart, Rossini and Donizetti. Her performances are often described as “spellbinding” or “euphoric” as she takes listeners to the seat of her own soul, refusing to return them until the last chord.

Kathleen Battle’s melodic, mesmerizing voice has been featured with the world’s most acclaimed orchestras and conductors including Levine, Solti, Ozawa, Previn and Maazel. She is a frequent guest at the festivals of Salzburg, Ravinia and Tanglewood, and has toured extensively in recital across the United States, Canada, Europe and the Far East. She performs regularly at the Metropolitan Opera in New York as well as at the opera houses of Vienna, Paris, San Francisco, Chicago and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden.

Appearing in concert and recording with some of the world’s most renowned musicians, including violinist Itzhak Perlman, flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal, and tenors Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo, Kathleen Battle is a brilliant collaborative artist and favorite among the best of the best. Hers is a language of passion . . . raw emotion on stage that cannot be paralleled.

Keen musical sensitivity and introspective interpretation have won Kathleen Battle three Grammy Awards. She is truly one of the most distinguished recording artists of all time, having released complete opera, concert, choral and solo recital albums.

Kathleen Battle has left an indelible imprint on the hearts of her fans and the souls of musicians to come. Today, we honor this great American, but the legacy of her music will live forever.