(1) expresses its profound sorrow for the deaths and injuries suffered by first responders as a result of their efforts to save innocent people in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001;

(2) expresses its deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of the fallen first responders;

(3) honors and commends the first responders who evacuated and rescued the innocent people in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon after the terrorist attacks;

(4) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to pay respect to the first responder community for their service in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks and their continuing efforts to save lives; and

(5) encourages all levels of government to continue to work together to effectively coordinate emergency preparedness by providing the infrastructure, funding, and interagency communication and cooperation necessary to ensure that if an attack occurs, first responders will be as prepared as possible to respond effectively.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, it is with great honor that I introduce this concurrent resolution on behalf of Senator INHOFE, Senator SCHUMER, Senator CLINTON, and myself, as well as many other original co-sponsors.

The resolution expresses Congress’ profound sorrow for the loss of life and injuries sustained “first responders” as a result of their efforts to save innocent Americans in the aftermath of the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Pennsylvania disasters on September 11, 2001. It also expresses our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the first responders who will never again return home.

Last Tuesday, in New York City and at the Pentagon, law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel (first responders) were the first public-service personnel on the scene. If it were not for their heroic efforts immediately after these attacks, the death toll would be much higher.

We also believe that it is important for America to better understand the daily activities and responsibilities of first responders. Our everyday well-being, security and safety depend upon first responders’ official duties. In preparation for these tragedies, first responders round the country plan, train and exercise for mass-casualty events. Our resolution recognizes the hard work and dedication of “first responders” and thanks them for the long hours of training that many participate in on their own time.

In addition, this resolution recognizes the hard work and dedication of first responders after the 1993 World Trade Center and the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

First Responders exemplify great courage and patriotism in the darkest of hours and for this we are most grateful.