September 21, 2001

We triumphed then. We will triumph now. So help us God.

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 TRAGEDY IN AMERICA

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, since September 11, we are solemnly reminded each day what it means to be a firefighter. Like so many others in public life they serve the community, but they do so at great risk of peril to their own health and lives.

So I am particularly pleased and proud to rise today in recognition of the careers of two distinguished firefighters from Sterling Heights, Michigan upon their retirement and as they embark upon a new phase of their lives. Captain Kerry Wolgast began his firefighting career in Sterling heights in 1979. Since then, he has obtained numerous certifications ranging from Hazardous Materials First Responder to Terrorism Awareness. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1994, and then to Captain in January of this year. He retired on September 17, 2001. Fire Inspector Andy Wallace began his career in Sterling Heights in 1980. Inspector Wallace has also obtained numerous certifications ranging from Criminal Justice Training to Fire and Arson investigation. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1995 and Fire Inspector in 1997. He will retire on January 16, 2002.

We are grateful for the service Captain Wolgast and Inspector Wallace have provided the community and citizens of Sterling Heights over their long careers. Both have served the public well and have received letters of thanks and commendation from the community in response. I send to them and to their families my best wishes for a healthy, happy and productive retirement.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIA’S INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Armenia’s independence from the Soviet Union. This anniversary marks an important turning point for Armenia and an opportunity to highlight the U.S.-Armenia relationship. As our country continues to mourn the victims of last Tuesday’s tragic attacks, so too do the Armenian people. Armenian President Robert Kocharian expressed his condolences to President Bush along with an offer to send experienced rescue workers to help the relief efforts in New York and at the Pentagon. The government of Armenia also pledged to support America’s anti-terrorist campaign.

Since the dawn of history, Armenians have held to their land despite repeated occupa-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. RANDY “DUKE” CUNNINGHAM
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the citizens of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands (CNMI) for their support of the United States Armed Forces. In particular, I want to thank the members of the House of Representatives of the CNMI and their Speaker, Ben Fitial. Recently, that body passed a resolution, authored by Speaker Fitial, calling for the U.S. Navy’s continued use of Farallon de Medinilla Island for essential training exercises.

Of all the targets in the Western Pacific available to forward deployed U.S. units, only Farallon de Medinilla offers the target fidelity, access and maneuver space required to maintain the Navy’s war-fighting capabilities. Rear Admiral Tom S. Fellin of the U.S. Navy has said that “Farallonde Medinilla . . . plays a special and unique role in national defense. Its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI.”

The men and women in our military need places like Farallon de Medinilla in order to keep our forces the most effective in the world. Shutting them down will cost lives. But Puerto Rico’s highly publicized and successful effort to end Navy training on its Vieques Island has inspired activists elsewhere to press for an end to military training in their backyard. Small groups of military extremists are now agitating for removal of U.S. military operations at Farallon de Medinilla Island and in Okinawa. Not only am I concerned about the implications of those efforts for our military