Valdez, as he retires from a lifetime of dedicated service to the Coastal Bend, to Texas and to the United States.

THE AMARONE FAMILY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 21, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, is my great honor to rise today to pay tribute to a truly amazing family of my hometown neighborhood: the Amarones of New Haven, Connecticut. Now over two hundred strong, the Amarones have long been a legend in the Wooster Square neighborhood and have held the distinction of having the largest family in New Haven since 1938.

Their story begins in 1911 when twenty-one-year-old Josephine arrived in the United States and met Andrew Amarone on Wooster Street. It was there that they were married and there that they made their home. It was also where their seventeen children were born and where two of their children died. Twenty-two years separates oldest son John from their youngest son Nicolo and one can only imagine the schedule Josephine and Andrew kept. Raising seventeen children through the hardest of economic times, I am still amazed at all they were able to accomplish living on the wages Andrew received as a polisher at Sargents, an architectural hardware factory where many immigrants were employed—averaging between fourteen and twenty-five dollars a week.

Throughout this last century, the Amarones have lost a number of their loved ones like Benny who was killed at Iwo Jima. For which he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Many others will be remembered this weekend when New Haven will be host to an Amarone family reunion where over one hundred and twenty family members from across the United States are expected to attend.

The Amarones are an incredible family with a rich history and a reflection of times past. Generations to come will continue in their strong traditions and will be a bright beacon for the future. As Members of Congress we should respond at this fateful moment in our history. I asked for their opinions because these are the men and women who have already answered. They have already responded to America's call. They have already paid a price for freedom . . . and many saw their comrades pay an eternal price.

Mr. Speaker, this group of veterans was united on two essential points which I share with my colleagues in Congress today. First, the American people, the Congress, and the administration must provide our armed forces with the sustained support they will need to ensure that no terrorist has the capability of inflicting damage on America ever again. Not at any time. Not in any place. Never again. That means pursuing justice until we clean every cave, every tunnel, and every training base where terrorists threaten our country.

Second, we must understand our obligation to our armed forces as we send them into battle . . . and after they return home. There's been a lot of talk about postponing America's domestic agenda. And I agree that we must be focused on our national and economic security. But as we send American troops into conflict, now is not the time to cut veterans benefits. Now is not the time to reduce services at our veterans hospitals. Now is not the time to cut health security or income security for our veterans. We must send a strong message to our armed forces that when they take care of America in battle, America will take care of them in peace. The maxims of battle is ‘leave no soldier behind.’ When the battle is over, let us leave no veteran behind.

Mr. Speaker, no group of people can provide more valuable insight about the struggle to come than those who have bravely served in struggles before. I appreciate the counsel that the veterans of New York's Second Congressional District have provided.

IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to show my support for our colleague, Congresswoman Barbara Lee. I am concerned about recent reports that violent threats have been directed at Ms. Lee and that her home has been vandalized. H.J. Res. 64, which authorized the use of military force in response to the attacks of September 11. While many of us may not agree with Congresswoman Lee's decision to vote against the authorization of the use of force, we must stand united to support her right to vote her conscience as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. A Member's duty is to vote on behalf of their constituents and to vote with their conscience. We must rise in support of this intrinsic component of our democracy.

Just as the acts of September 11th can destroy us from without, they can also destroy us from within. As Members of Congress we must call on America to check our inflated passions and national anger so as not to risk destroying our national unity. In recent days we have seen a spate of hate crimes against Muslims, Arab Americans and South Asian Americans. Such hate and intolerance threatens to slowly destroy the foundation of our democracy.

During this very difficult time in American history, we must demonstrate to the American people that we are strong and united beyond party lines and ideologies. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in deploiring these acts against Congresswoman Lee and supporting our democratic process.

NEW THREATS READINESS

HON. ROY BLUNT
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, reflection on the attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon leads us to the inescapable conclusion that the United States must ever be ready to meet new threats that face us, regardless of their source.

During our district work period, former Congressman James W. Symington of Missouri spoke at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield for the groundbreaking of the new library at the Battlefield's visitor's center. Mr. Symington's father, Senator Stuart Symington, spoke at the dedication of the National Battlefield forty years earlier. Jim Symington is now an attorney in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Symington challenged those at the dedication to consider that threats today could be met by “preventive diplomacy, the maintenance of traditional alliances, the forging of new ones, state-of-the-art intelligence capability, and sufficient countermeasures.” As we deliberate our response as a nation to the events of September 11, I urge my colleagues to consider the comments made by Mr. Symington.

UNION, RECONCILIATION, READINESS

In the words of a beloved hymn: “Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away. They vanish lightly as a dream fades at the break of day.” Has it really been forty years since my father stood here to dedicate this hard-won parksite as a memorial, in his words, “to a high point of valor” in our nation’s history? It was a Missouri moment, just as it was a century earlier when Missourians in concert with units from neighboring states, contested and made sacred this ground in the same time frame as Bull Run in Virginia and with consequences no less significant. This morning we share another Missouri moment seven score years from the very day this hallowed ground became the resting place of so many gallant young Americans. The legacy of their combined valor, that proud legacy, is what brings us together, and requests that we reflect on its meaning. To my mind its meaning is three-fold: Union, Reconciliation, and Readiness. First, it signifies our precious Union; its bonds re-forged by that historic battle and so many like it over the ensuing four years. As my father’s words, “As we dedicate this ground, let us join our hearts and minds