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 Sargent’s, 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. In a time when family values are under close scrutiny, it is families like the Amarones that we look to for inspiration. It is my honor and privilege to recognize the Amarone family as they gather to celebrate their first family reunion and to extend my very best wishes to them all.

Ms. DeLAURO. 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 the Antifa vote and H.J. Resolution 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 defend 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 within, they can also destroy us from without. As Members of Congress we must call on America to check our inflamed 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, I 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 deploring these acts against Congresswoman Lee and supporting our democratic process.
in prayer that this be a battlefield of the last day's battle hardly yet settled—in an area of no-man's-land that become known as ‘the trysting place’. For there, during interludes in the battle both men and women who dreamed, planned, deferred, and in the end, ultimately achieved this breathtaking memorial to Missouri's ‘high point of valor’. It is an honor to be among you. And I thank you.

CALL FOR TOLERANCE FOR ETHNIC AMERICANS OF ARAB AND SOUTH ASIAN DESCENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as the new Representative for the City and suburbs of Chicago, I want to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Deborah Jacobs Welsh. I have never had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Welsh, but because of her courage and selflessness, I am able to stand here today on the floor of the House of Representatives and honor her memory.

Debbie, as her friends and family lovingly call her, was a flight attendant on United Airlines Flight 93, which was hijacked on that fateful morning of September 11 and then crashed into a field in western Pennsylvania.

But that’s only part of the story.

Flight 93 were aware that this hijacking was part of a bigger, coordinated terrorist attack. They knew that not only were their own lives at stake, but the lives of countless people on the ground also hung in the balance. Putting aside their own safety and well-being and overcoming paralyzing fear, several passengers and crew members banded together and vowed to take back control of the plane. Anyone who knows Debbie, knows that, without a doubt, she was part of the group that fought to the end, refusing to give in to the hijackers.

While she cannot express the rollercoaster of emotions running through me on that tragic day, especially when I learned of the heroic actions of those on Flight 93 which, according to authorities, was likely headed for the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. I cannot fathom the further devastation Flight 93 would have wrought if not for Debbie and the others who made the ultimate sacrifice, all in the name of protecting their fellow Americans and our nation. Because of these courageous individuals, I stand here today unharmed, as do my colleagues, members of my staff, and hundreds of other people who work on Capitol Hill.

The bravery Debbie demonstrated in her final moments was not an isolated incident. Throughout her life, she always stood up for those who, like her, had to navigate the challenges of being Arab-American. For those of us who aren’t directly affected, it’s easy to forget that we could suffer the same injustices she encountered. She could light up a room with her smile and her wonderful sense of humor. Debbie showed the same level of loyalty and concern for strangers as she did her family, and for the homeless people in her neighborhood.

Most of all, Debbie was a loving wife to Patrick, and a devoted daughter, sister, and aunt.