

Debbie will definitely be sorely missed, but she will never be forgotten. Her actions will live on as an example for all Americans.

I know I speak for myself and my colleagues, when I say, "Thank you, Debbie. For everything."

HONORING TODD BEAMER

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, America has found a hero in Todd Beamer, one of the passengers on the hijacked Flight 93 who gave their lives to deny the vicious hijackers their deadly mission. We all mourn the loss of Todd Beamer and the others on that flight and our hearts and prayers go out to Lisa Beamer, their two fine children, and to all the other families of the people on that plane. We also hold up the memory of Mr. Beamer as one who represents what is good about America.

For two centuries observers around the world from Alexis de Toqueville to Winston Churchill, have spoken about the marvelous ability of Americans to rise to meet a challenging situation, the ability of individual Americans to step from their ordinary lives to do extraordinary things.

I attended the memorial service for Todd Beamer at the church in Plainsboro, New Jersey where the Beamer family worships. From the remembrances delivered lovingly by friends and family I learned a lot about the character of this national hero. He was an outstanding athlete who led and inspired his teammates. He was a fine businessman who stood out in a national company. He was an involved and loving father who was looking forward to the upcoming birth of his third child. Especially, I learned that he was a man of deep religious faith, a faith that allowed him to look past death to act so courageously on board Flight 93.

We all believe that band of passengers who fought the hijackers—Todd's father called them freedom fighters—saved hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives that would have been taken if that plane had made its fiery descent into the hijackers' intended target. It is worth noting that none of those people whose lives were saved know who they are. We will never know. But all Americans can be grateful and can raise up the example of the heroes on that flight.

Their memory reminds us that this is not the last time America will need heroes. The survival of American ideals depends day in and day out on ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things, courageous things. The opportunity comes to every American to do courageous things. Most Americans will never have to face down an armed hijacker, but may have the opportunity in their neighborhoods or among their friends to face down bigotry, intolerance, or injustice. The memory of people like Todd Beamer helps us meet those challenges.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING EXEL OF HOUSTON,
TEXAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, on September 27, 2001, the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce will present Exel with the 2001 Industry of the Year Award at their Annual Salute to Industry. Although I will not be able to attend this ceremony, I want to congratulate all the employees at Exel, and in particular the Chief Executive Officer Bruce Edwards, for their excellence in operation and their ongoing commitment to our community.

The Industry of the Year Award, the highest honor presented by the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce, is awarded each year to an area business whose mission emphasizes a strong commitment to the community.

Exel is a world leader in supply chain services. Throughout their operations Exel has aggressively employed advanced technology, maintained an industry-focused approach, and expanded their global coverage to include 1,300 locations in 120 countries. Within the gulf coast region alone, Exel employs over 780 people, operate on three local campuses, and services such companies as Dow, ExxonMobil, and Compaq Computers.

Exel has clearly demonstrated their commitment to our community. The Exel Foundation, working in close partnership with the employees, contributes over \$1 million annually to local charities. At Exel, they value the importance of investing in our nation's young people and plan to introduce educational programs in those nations where Exel has a material presence.

In closing, I want to congratulate the employees of Exel for their exemplary model of community activism and wish them continued success in future endeavors.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Armenian Republic on the nation's Tenth Anniversary of Independence. Today, citizens of Armenia, as well as people of Armenian descent here in the United States and around the world celebrate their independence from the former Soviet Union. Sadly, they will also be mourning the victims of the September 11th attack on our country. Armenia's early response to the attack was to assist American staff in ensuring the security of the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan. President Kocharian joined other world leaders in expressing both his solidarity with America and his shock and sorrow in a letter sent to President Bush. I would like to ask unanimous consent to submit President Kocharian's letter to President Bush for the record.

Since its independence, democratic nations have welcomed Armenia into the family. I am

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proud that this Congress has consistently voted to provide humanitarian economic development assistance to help Armenia preserve democracy and the institutions of civil society and to continue its transition to a free market economy.

The United States has a fundamental national interest in bringing about stability in the strategically located Caucasus region and in supporting those emerging nations like Armenia that share our values. Given the horrific events of September 11th, it becomes even more important to ensure that the countries in the Caucasus move forward together—economically and politically. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that the tensions in the region subside and that the long-standing differences that divide the countries of the region are resolved. Winners and losers in the Caucasus will only foster greater insecurity and instability at a time when we need to bring everyone together to combat terrorism. I have been encouraged by Armenia's ongoing attempts to reach out to its neighbors—Turkey and Azerbaijan—in a constructive manner.

Mr. Speaker, the story of the Armenian people is an unforgettable story of triumph over adversity and tragedy. Earlier in this century, in one of history's most horrible crimes against humanity, 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered by the Ottoman Turkish Empire. We must continue to remind the world that this genocide is an historic fact—despite the efforts of so-called "revisionists," many of them funded by the Turkish government, to deny the truth—and to make sure that our nation, the world community, and especially the Turkish nation come to terms with and appropriately commemorate this historic fact.

Mr. Speaker, it was the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that allowed the Armenian people to re-establish a state and a nation, to create a society where their language, culture, religion and other institutions would prosper. The people of Armenia have endeavored to build a free and proud nation, based on the principles of democracy and a market economy.

The tiny, landlocked Republic of Armenia is surrounded by hostile neighbors, who have imposed blockades halting the delivery of basic necessities and greatly hindering economic development. Despite the dual blockades, Armenia continues to implement economic and democratic reforms. During the first six months of this year, Armenia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 6.4 percent over last year's level. And during the last year, both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have publicly noted Armenia's economic progress.

Despite this progress, I would like to say that the economic reality of daily life for the people of the Republic of Armenia continues to be extremely hard.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that as we mark future Independence Days of the Republic of Armenia, we can look back with pride on building peace and prosperity in the entire Trans-Caucasus region, so that the people of Armenia and their neighbors can enjoy a stable and hopeful future. I hope that the Republics of Turkey and Azerbaijan will respond positively to Armenia's repeated offers to normalize relations. Specifically, I hope that Turkey will allow