Mr. Speaker, such moving testimonials to this great and courageous man have literally come in floods of words and tears in recent days back in Minnesota. At a memorial service last Tuesday night at St. Edward’s Catholic Church in Bloomington, I was among the 1,200 mourners who attended and heard many such moving tributes. The streets and parking lot of that church were lined with many other people who could not get into the packed church. Many waved American flags of all sizes. It was very sad. And it was very uplifting.

Mr. Speaker, many people claim America has suffered from a lack of heroes in recent years. Not anymore. Not with Tom Burnett, Jr. to look up to. Like so many heroes of September 11 who gave their lives to help others, from Tom and his fellow passengers on Flight 93, to the police, rescue personnel, and all the heroes and heroines like Tom’s wonderful family, his loving wife, Deena, their daughters Madison, Halley and Anna-Clair, his parents Thomas Sr. and Beverly of Bloomington, and his sisters Martha O’Brien and Mary Margaret Burnett.

May God bless Tom Burnett and his family. And may God bless America and all the heroes and heroines like Tom Burnett who gave their lives to save others on September 11.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOVERY AND RETURN OF LUDWIG KOONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to let my colleagues know of my introduction of a concurrent resolution in support of the United States Government’s becoming actively involved in the recovery and return of Ludwig Koons, a boy who was abducted to Italy by his mother.

Ludwig, son of Jeffrey Koons, an award-winning, internationally renowned artist, was abducted to Italy by his mother, Iliana Staller, on June 9, 1994. Mr. Koons has filed a petition against the Republic of Italy with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and a preliminary decision regarding the admissibility of this petition is expected to be issued by the court in October 2001. I have respectfully requested that both the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of State file briefs in the European Court of Human Rights supporting Mr. Koons’ petition, pursuant to article 36 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, which states the United States has a right to intervene in proceedings before the European court in Strasbourg, promoted by its citizens suffering from human rights violations.

On May 29, 2001, Mrs. Staller was convicted in Italy for kidnapping their minor son, Ludwig, from his family residence in New York on June 9, 1994. In addition, with a judgment dated May 31, 2001, this year, Mrs. Staller was found guilty by the Rome Tribunal of repeated acts of defamation through the media against Mr. Koons. The delays of the Italian judicial authorities in finding Mrs. Staller guilty of international child kidnapping were instrumental in allowing the mother to retain custody of Ludwig in Italy illegitimately.

Authorities have not taken into consideration the judgment of divorce entered by the New York Supreme Court in New York of December 9, 1994, which had exclusive jurisdiction to decide the parties’ custody dispute. The decision of the Italian judicial authorities to prohibit Ludwig, a native American citizen, from exercising his right of access to the United States, even for temporary visits, in order to maintain meaningful relations with his father and his paternal family is in violation of international principles of law and treaties to the detriment of a U.S. minor.

My resolution states that the United States should request that the Italian Republic immediately return Ludwig Maximilian Koons to the custody of the father in the United States as established by the judgment of divorce in the Supreme Court of New York of December 9, 1994. Pending a final decision by the Republic of Italy regarding the permanent return of Ludwig to the United States, the United States should also request that Italy authorize Koons to visit his father in his New York residence on a temporary basis.

As an American citizen, Ludwig has a right to preserve his identity, his nationality, and his family relations and to be raised by the parents who can best assure him a sound and healthy environment.

OH SAY CAN WE SEE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, lying aboard a British warship in Baltimore Harbor, Francis Scott Key listened to the shells and saw the smoke of Fort McHenry. The small, undamaged garrison stubbornly held off the British forces and defiantly over that battered fort. The Americans had achieved the unthinkable. They had bravely held their position against all odds. The magnificent sight moved Key to pen the words that have stirred American hearts ever since, the Star-Spangled Banner.

Two weeks ago, 187 years after the defense of Fort McHenry, our Nation stared in horror at the smoke hanging over New York City and Washington, D.C. We looked on in disbelief as the towers of the World Trade Center crumbled before our very eyes. Yet out of the destruction shone a beacon of hope. Wiping tears from our eyes, we watched modern heroes, New York’s firefighters, raising the Stars and Stripes atop the mountain of rubble. The comparison to Iwo Jima is inescapable.

Madam Speaker, the attack on America was not an attempt to defeat our Army. It was an organized plan to destroy the lives of innocent Americans. It was a direct assault on the American spirit. The terrorists succeeded in killing thousands of our fellow citizens, but they can never kill the American spirit.

Napoleon once said, "The great soldiers run to the sound of the guns." Consider the heroism of the passengers aboard United Flight 93 who attacked their hijackers. They saved thousands of lives on the ground and perhaps the most precious symbols of our Nation. We have never forgotten the firefighters who gave their lives when they courageously rushed into the burning towers as others streamed out. Now we see the quiet heroism of rescue workers who continue to dig tirelessly through the rubble in hopes of finding just one survivor. These Americans stand on the shoulders of the defenders of Fort McHenry.

Throughout our history, many adversaries have underestimated the steady resolve of the American spirit. They underestimate us now. We have been called to action, to demonstrate the virtues that make this a great Nation. At a similar hour, Winston Churchill said, "Do not let us speak of darker days. Let us speak, rather, of the towering days. These are not dark days. These are great days, the greatest days our country has ever lived. We must all thank God that we have been allowed, each of us according to our stations, to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race."

Madam Speaker, as we declare war on terrorism around the world, the
American flag will inspire us just as it inspired Francis Scott Key. It will serve as a notice to our adversaries. Though bruised and bloodied, we remain unbowed. The authors of terror may never understand the words of our national anthem, but they will come to understand the spirit that it embodies. We will turn our rage into moral outrage. When the dust of battle clears, America will remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Madam Speaker, to victory. May God bless America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair. Accordingly (at 7:00 o’clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 8 o’clock and 16 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2944, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107–217) on the resolution (H. Res. 245) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2944) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2586, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107–218) on the resolution (H. Res. 246) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2586) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(he following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DeFazio, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. Millender-McDonald, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Conyers, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. Mee of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. Brown of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. Jones of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Watson of California, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Rodriguez, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Sherman, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Lampson, for 5 minutes, today.
(he following Members (at the request of Mr. GUTNECKT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. Ramstad, for 5 minutes, today and September 25.
Mr. Kerns, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Gutnecks, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker.

H.R. 2926. To preserve the continued viability of the United States air transportation system.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reported that on September 21, 2001 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 2926. To preserve the continued viability of the United States air transportation system.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LINDER, Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 17 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 25, 2001, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

3770. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Labeling of Natural or Regenerated Collagen Sausage Casings (Docket No. 94–030F) (RIN: 0583–AC90) received August 23, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3771. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States; (H. Doc. No. 107–123); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.


3774. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Anthropomorphic Test Devices; 12-Month-Old Child Dummy; Final Rule; Response to Comments on Final Rule (Docket No. NHTSA–00–7052) (RIN: 2127–A137) received August 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3775. A letter from the Attorney, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule—List of Nonconforming Vehicles Decided to be Eligible for Approval (Docket No. NHTSA–2001–10636) (RIN: 2127–A124) received September 17, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3776. A letter from the Attorney, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Agency’s final rule—Approval and Prohibition of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; States of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska (FRL–7052–7) received September 5, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.


3778. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule—Approval and Prohibition of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Ohio; Strip Mining; and Reduction of Diesel Vehicle Emissions (CO–001–0051a, CO–001–0052a, FRL–7044–8) received September 5, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3779. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule—Approval and Prohibition of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Denver 1-Hour Ozone Redesignation to attainment; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, and Approval of Related Revisions (CO–001–0055a; FRL–7044–8) received September 5, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.