

worked in a very cost-effective way to have a safe work environment.

Their commitment to our communities in the Fifth Congressional District has been a blessing. It will be sorely missed. I will be there this week to pay tribute as they close the plant and finish their job operations this Friday and to wish them well and all of God's blessings as they move on in life; and we will do everything we can at the Federal level to assist them in their next steps along the way.

**EXPRESSING WHOLEHEARTED GRATITUDE AND PRIDE FOR OUR BRAVE AND HEROIC EMERGENCY PERSONNEL**

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, the world watched in horror as the primary symbols of our Nation's strength and prosperity were attacked. There is an aching in our hearts as we mourn for the senseless loss of life, and we share the grief of the victims' families, friends, and coworkers.

As the list of casualties from the World Trade Towers, from the Pentagon, and from Pennsylvania grows to 6,500, it is frightening to imagine that the toll would have been higher, even higher, were it not for the extraordinary courage and valor exhibited by our firefighters, police officers, and emergency rescue workers. For this reason I rise today to pay homage to all emergency service personnel, but particularly to the brave and heroic men and women of the Arlington County, City of Alexandria, and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and Police Department. These, along with the Federal firefighters at Fort Myer, are the emergency service personnel who first responded to the attack on the Pentagon.

If there is one thing that distinguishes firefighters from the rest of us, it is that they are trained to run toward a blaze while the rest of us run away from it. Every day, these men and women face risks and challenges that few of us can relate to. With little regard for their own safety and well-being, these firefighters responded within minutes after the attack to the Pentagon. The Arlington County Fire Department and Police Department, which have primary responsibility for first response at the Pentagon, were among the first emergency teams to arrive at the scene of the plane crash.

Firefighters and emergency medical service personnel from Arlington and assisted by response teams from around the area courageously fought the flames, rescued victims trapped inside the building, and treated and transported the injured. A few days after the attack, I had the opportunity

to tour the destruction site at the Pentagon. In the midst of the ruins and the lingering smoke, the firefighters were working around the clock to extinguish the blaze and continue with rescue and recovery efforts. Response teams from the entire D.C. area, including fire and rescue teams from Fort Myer, the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and many localities are to be commended for their bravery and life-saving efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my wholehearted gratitude toward these men and women who are responsible for saving so many lives. Together with the firefighters and police of New York City, they reminded all of us of what it means to exhibit courage and valor. It is with great pride and admiration that I rise today to honor these firefighters and rescue personnel for their commitment on behalf of our country.

I want to particularly commend Fire Chief Ed Plaughter of the Arlington County Fire Department and Police Chief Ed Flynn for their leadership during this terrible time in our community. The fire chief and police chief of Alexandria and those of Fairfax County also were able to command their forces with the kind of courage and immediate responsiveness that reflects their professional dedication, their selflessness and unwavering dedication which is an inspiration to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, history will show that during a time of one of America's greatest tragedies, a heroic group of firefighters, police officers, emergency personnel, and volunteers from around the Washington Metropolitan area brought our community and our country immense pride and honor.

**OUR ETERNAL GRATITUDE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 2 weeks since war came to New York City, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and America. These cowards have waged war not on our Army and Navy, but on ordinary men and women who were killed simply because they showed up for work.

This unspeakable tragedy has been New York's darkest hour, but it has also been its finest hour. We knew New York's bravest and finest would respond with great courage; but we did not know how many firefighters, police officers, and other rescue workers we would lose.

Last week, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and I introduced legislation honoring Mayor Giuliani for his leadership, the rescue workers, and the people of New York City for their courage, volunteerism and enduring

spirit. Through their selfless attempts to save innocent people, hundreds of rescue workers and citizens made the ultimate sacrifice. We appreciate all that they have done.

We owe them our eternal gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, our city and country are mobilizing as never before.

The day after the terrorist attack at ground zero I saw not only the devastation but the determination in all New Yorkers and Americans to rescue, rebuild—and repay the terrorists in calculated, just, multi-national strikes at them and those who harbor them.

We're getting back to work to rebuild Lower Manhattan and to keep our economy strong.

From the bottom of my heart I thank my colleagues for their swift support for the \$20 billion we've approved to rebuild.

I've never seen this Congress more united or more determined.

The airline bill passed last Friday was also a boon to New York.

It included funds to support the victims and their families. And it helped keep planes flying into New York.

Today we will make this airline initiative more comprehensive by passing legislation that supports airline workers who were laid off through no fault of their own.

The impact of this tragedy is being felt far beyond ground zero.

New York City's second largest industry is tourism.

Right now restaurants are empty. Hotel rooms are vacant and Broadway shows are closing.

Yesterday morning I met with Don Winter, a Chamber of Commerce President.

He said small businesses in particular are being devastated and that they pass under the radar screen of many relief efforts.

Last week to help address this problem and bring people back to New York Congressman REYNOLDS and I introduced the "I Love New York Tax Deduction Act".

For the next year it would allow individuals to deduct from their income taxes up to \$500 and families up to \$1,000 for spending money in NYC restaurants, lodging and entertainment outlets whether or not they itemize their taxes.

All Americans who want to help the relief effort would be eligible for this deduction. All they would have to do is come to New York and help our economy by enjoying all that our city has to offer.

Right now, tourism is patriotism.

3,000 New York City hotel workers have already lost their jobs.

The City's 300,000 food service workers are facing heavy layoffs.

Eleven current Broadway productions have closed.

I think it's important that we as a country remember both this tragedy and the extraordinary human response that is fundamentally American.

Even as the ground-zero cleanup continues I've been assured by Ken Holden, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Design and Construction, that fragments of shells of the Twin Towers which landed in the ground like daggers in our heart will be preserved for the purpose of creating a national monument. A reminder of the day our lives turned upside down. And how we have come together as a city and nation.