

October 5, 2001

will draw strength from its many friends and allies around the world.

Yours truly,

*Peter Milliken,
The Speaker.*

RESOLUTION

Resolved.—That this House express its sorrow and horror at the senseless and vicious attack on the United States of America on September 11, 2001;

That it express its heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and to the American people; and

That it reaffirm its commitment to the humane values of free and democratic society and its determination to bring to justice the perpetrators of this attack on these values and to defend civilization from any future terrorist attack.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2001.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. BLUMENAUER, relating to animal fighting.

This amendment, which is identical in content to H.R. 1155, would close a loophole in section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act and bar any interstate shipment of birds for fighting purposes.

Mr. Speaker, in 1976, I joined my colleagues on the floor of the U.S. House in overwhelmingly approving an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act barring any interstate shipment of birds for fighting. Unfortunately, in the conference with the Senate on this legislation, a provision was inserted to allow shipment of fighting birds to States where cockfighting is legal [at that time, there were six States that allowed legal cockfighting].

For the last quarter century, it has become apparent that this loophole has undermined the effectiveness of State bans against cockfighting. Now only three States allow cockfighting, and the loophole in the law allows illegal cockfighters to argue that they possess and train fighting birds and equipment in order to sell the animals and equipment to any one of the three legal cockfighting States. In reality, they are typically making an excuse to conceal their illegal cockfighting operations within their own State. For instance, a cockfighter in Florida or West Virginia, where cockfighting is illegal, can evade scrutiny, and confiscation of fighting animals, by claiming he is going to ship the birds to one of the three legal States. In short, the loophole provides a smokescreen behind which illegal cockfighters operate and undermine the effectiveness of state laws against animal fighting.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment mirrors the provisions of H.R. 1155, a bill introduced by Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota which has 205 bi-

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partisan cosponsors. This measure has been endorsed by 98 law enforcement agencies.

We should note that the legislation has been endorsed by leading animal welfare groups including the Humane Society of the United States and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

While the Animal Welfare Act currently prohibits any interstate movement of dogs for fighting, the prohibition does not apply to birds shipped interstate to fight in the three States where cockfighting is still legal. This loophole should be closed.

Accordingly, I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO JACQUELYN C.C. MENDIOLA

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring attention to an exceptional young woman named Jacquelyn C.C. Mendiola. Jacquelyn, a 16-year-old junior attending George Washington High School in Mangilao, Guam, enjoys music, reading, writing and playing basketball. I bring special attention to her today because of a passionate poem she wrote regarding the September 11 attacks on our nation. Jacquelyn happened to be home sick that day and watched the World Trade Center events in New York on the TV news headlines. Her inspiration came from repeatedly watching the families of victims through CNN news. Her emotions and creativity is reflected in her heart-felt poem which I submit for the RECORD along with her story in her own words.

I stayed home sick from school. When I awoke, I found my mom tuned into CNN. At first, I couldn't believe what was happening. It was like a movie. The twin towers were on fire and came crashing down. The people running on the streets trying desperately to get away. I was then glued to the television and the news reports CNN gave were unbelievable. They did an interview on relatives of those victimized by the attacks. Looking at their faces and seeing the pain in their eyes was overwhelming for me. It broke my heart because I realized that something traumatic can happen to anyone so unexpectedly. They didn't know they were going to die that day. No one suspected they would lose their loved ones. Then I heard about the lost firemen, those who went into save lives and ended up losing their own. When my mom and dad left for work, and my brother and sister were at school, I had a lot of time to myself and I couldn't help but reflect on what was happening. I knew people would be asking, "Why?" or "Where is God when you need Him?" or they would be pointing fingers looking for someone to blame. I can't blame them for being angry because this is terribly disappointing. However, I was thinking that if we continue to seethe with anger instead of uniting to help one another, the situation will be worse than it already is. It's so sad. We need support more than ever, but most of all, I feel we need a God whose power is much more great than the amount of evil in our world. It's harder to trust now and it's hard to maintain hope. We need a strength that

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defeats our own. With all this on my mind, I wrote it down, and I choose to express myself by writing a poem about a day we shall never forget.

TAKE YOUR SEATS

Passengers take their seats
On a flight to a set destination,
Not knowing that on this day
They will cry out with desperation.

Employees take their seats
In offices stories high,
Not knowing that in this city
Many of them will die.

New York's usual rhythm stopped
When loud explosion came.
It took our nation by surprise
On this long tragic day.

Firefighters and police
Rush to save their lives.
Courageous heroes trapped within
Feared to have not survived.

Faces and dreams wiped away,
The very thought makes me cry.
To know these victims cried in anguish,
Tears falling from their eyes.

Father why did this happen?
Your children have been killed.
Friends and families mourn their deaths.
There is a great void to fill.

A freedom-loving nation torn
United we must stand.
Help us to be strong, I pray
Shelter us with Your hand.

Have mercy on these victims God,
Whose lives came to a sudden stop.
Grant comfort to their loved ones
And be their unshaken rock.

How can this world have so much hate?
Although I've been there too.
Teach us to love instead of hate
Help us to be like You.

Passengers take their seats
On a flight to a set destination.
Not knowing that on this day,
Their flight will lead to Heaven.

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HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an exciting event that will be taking place next week in my Congressional District. On October 8, 2001 the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame, on Oneonta, New York, will award the National Soccer Medal of Honor to a truly remarkable group of individuals, the Championship 1991 U.S. Women's National Soccer Team.

The National Soccer Medal of Honor is a special honor created by the members of the Society of American Soccer History (SASH), and Board of Directors of the National Soccer Hall of Fame to be awarded on special occasions when an individual has so influenced the sport of soccer in the United States as to effect the course of its history. The medal is rarely bestowed. In fact, the October 8th presentation will be only the third in the last twenty years!

The amazing accomplishment of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team in China in