

Fred was a Director of the Rome Bank and Trust Company, and a member and current trustee at First Presbyterian Church. He served on the Board of Directors of Hand and Associates in Houston, Texas, and was a member of the Coosa Country Club. He was active in many other professional and community activities; and had a lifelong passion for politics. Fred Johnson was a fine family man, and a true friend to all in his community, including, thankfully, me. We will miss him.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JASON M. DAHL, UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Jason Matthew Dahl, the pilot of United Airlines Flight 93, and a true American hero. He was doing what he loved to do when he lost his life along with thousands of others in the horrible assault on our nation that occurred on September 11. His bravery on that flight was reflective of the American spirit displayed in abundance by countless Americans that day. Jason grew up in the San Jose community, and his parents, who were the proprietors of Dahl's Dairy Delivery, used to deliver milk to Hillsdale Elementary School, where I served as principal.

From his childhood years, Jason had a strong desire to fly. His passionate devotion to this endeavor was only matched during his lifetime by his devotion to his family. Jason was born the youngest of five children on November 2, 1957, in San Jose, California, and grew up on Haga Drive, in the house where his widowed mother, Mildred, still lives. He attended Hillsdale Middle School and Sylvandale Middle School, both of which I would eventually helm as principal. He first manifested his affinity for flight during his years at Sylvandale, where he started building radio-controlled airplanes, and would fly these planes with his friend, Roger. He then joined the Civil Air Patrol, and was soon taking flying lessons from Amelia Reid at Reid Hillview Airport. He was a quick study, and was flying solo by the youthful age of 16. During this early period, Jason gave his father a photograph, depicting the two of them standing in front of a Cessna, on which Jason had written: "Maybe someday this will be a 747."

Jason attended my alma mater, San Jose State University, from 1975 to 1980, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Operations. While at San Jose State, Jason developed close, lasting relationships with a group of classmates, fellow members of the "Flying Twenties" club, who cemented their friendships while pumping fuel at Reid Hillview Airport in order to earn money to rent planes and buy their own fuel. Jason supported himself during his college years working at this job, as well as by flying advertising banners, doing aerial photo surveys, and teaching private flying lessons.

After graduating from college, Jason was hired by Ron Nelson Construction as a cor-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

porate pilot. A few years later, he applied to the commercial airlines, and he realized his dream when he got the call from United Airlines in June 1985. He steadily moved up the ranks at United, and when he was offered the position of flight instructor, he accepted it. Although Jason loved to fly, working at the training center allowed him to spend more time with his family.

Balancing the demands of career and family is a daunting challenge, especially for a pilot, but family was greatly important to Jason. No matter how busy his flight schedule, he always made the time for his wife, Sandy, and his children, Matt and Jennifer.

Captain Dahl was an emblem of the American dream. He was a committed family man and a successful pilot. His heroism on the morning of September 11, 2001, saved the lives of countless Americans in Washington, DC, and quite possibly many Members of Congress and others who work in the United States Capitol Building. Jason's mother recently told me that though she accepted his tremendous love of flying early on, she never could quell the concern any pilot's mother has for her child's safety. She said that Jason would reassure her by saying that if he ever were to experience an airborne disaster, he would be sure to go down over trees or an open field, and not over a populated area. Over the woods of western Pennsylvania on the morning of September 11, Captain Jason M. Dahl kept his word.

"UNITED IN MEMORY" MEMORIAL SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one month ago, the most lethal terrorist attack in history was visited upon this Nation. Today, about 25,000 people attended the Department of Defense's "United in Memory" memorial service to celebrate the lives and mourn the loss of the people claimed in this attack. Members of the Cabinet and Congress joined the public on the grounds of the Pentagon "to console and pray" with the families of the victims and, as Secretary Rumsfeld said, "remember them as believers in the heroic ideal for which this Nation stands and for which this building exists."

The President, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff all spoke of the loss we suffered on September 11 and the resolve that it has spawned. In the words of President Bush, "Brick by brick we will quickly rebuild the Pentagon. In the missions ahead for the military you will have everything you need, every resource, every weapon, every means to assure full victory for the United States and the cause of freedom."

I'd like to insert the following remarks into the RECORD so that they may forever pay tribute to those affected by terror on September 11th.

PRESIDENT PAYS TRIBUTE AT PENTAGON MEMORIAL

The President. Please be seated. President and Senator Clinton, thank you all for being

here. We have come here to pay our respects to 125 men and women who died in the service of America. We also remember 64 passengers on a hijacked plane; those men and women, boys and girls who fell into the hands of evildoers, and also died here exactly one month ago.

On September 11th, great sorrow came to our country. And from that sorrow has come great resolve. Today, we are a nation awakened to the evil of terrorism, and determined to destroy it. That work began the moment we were attacked; and it will continue until justice is delivered.

Americans are returning, as we must, to the normal pursuits of life. (Applause.) Americans are returning, as we must, to the normal pursuits of life. But we know that if you lost a son or daughter here, or a husband, or a wife, or a mom or dad, life will never again be as it was. The loss was sudden, and hard, and permanent. So difficult to explain. So difficult to accept.

Three schoolchildren traveling with their teacher. An Army general. A budget analyst who reported to work here for 30 years. A lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve who left behind a wife, a four-year-old son, and another child on the way.

One life touches so many others. One death can leave sorrow that seems almost unbearable. But to all of you who lost someone here, I want to say: You are not alone. The American people will never forget the cruelty that was done here and in New York, and in the sky over Pennsylvania.

We will never forget all the innocent people killed by the hatred of a few. We know the loneliness you feel in your loss. The entire nation, entire nation shares in your sadness. And we pray for you and your loved ones. And we will always honor their memory.

The hijackers were instruments of evil who died in vain. Behind them is a cult of evil which seeks to harm the innocent and thrives on human suffering. There is the worst kind of cruelty, the cruelty that is fed, not weakened, by tears. There is the worst kind of violence, pure malice, while daring to claim the authority of God. We cannot fully understand the designs and power of evil. It is enough to know that evil, like goodness, exists. And in the terrorists, evil has found a willing servant.

In New York, the terrorists chose as their target a symbol of America's freedom and confidence. Here, they struck a symbol of our strength in the world. And the attack on the Pentagon, on that day, was more symbolic than they knew. It was on another September 11th—September 11th, 1941—that construction on this building first began. America was just then awakening to another menace: The Nazi terror in Europe.

And on that very night, President Franklin Roosevelt spoke to the nation. The danger, he warned, has long ceased to be a mere possibility. The danger is here now. Not only from a military enemy, but from an enemy of all law, all liberty, all morality, all religion.

For us too, in the year 2001, an enemy has emerged that rejects every limit of law, morality, and religion. The terrorists have no true home in any country, or culture, or faith. They dwell in dark corners of earth. And there, we will find them.

This week, I have called—(applause)—this week, I have called the Armed Forces into action. One by one, we are eliminating power centers of a regime that harbors al Qaeda terrorists. We gave that regime a choice: Turn over the terrorists, or face your ruin. They chose unwisely. (Applause.)