

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW
OF THE CONGRESS FOR DEATH
AND INJURIES SUFFERED BY
FIRST RESPONDERS IN AFTER-
MATH OF TERRORIST ATTACKS
ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 233. Indeed, on September 11, the lives of every American, and every person in the world for that matter, changed forever. To those who lost loved ones, I can only express my deepest and sincerest sympathy. I can also assure the family, friends, and loved ones of these victims that their actions and memories will live on in the American spirit forever.

No one will ever forget where he or she was on the fateful morning of September 11. No one will ever forget what the firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and rescue workers were doing when the two towers of the World Trade Center collapsed and just minutes after the Pentagon was hit by a hijacked plane. No one will ever forget the selfless acts of heroism that occurred on United Airlines flight 93, as the actions of several individuals possibly saved the lives of thousands. No one will ever forget the compassion, patriotism, comradery, unity, and grief that can be felt in our country today.

There is an old saying that the worst often brings out the best in us. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the same can be said for September 11. As the events of that fateful morning continued to unfold, the first things that came to my mind, like many of you, quickly turned to my family and loved ones. Once I knew that my mother and children were safe, I quickly began to focus on the safety of the rest of our country.

Looking back, I guess that you could say I went through a process, a checklist if you will. First to my family and loved ones, then to my district. The checklist was nothing more than instinct. And in an emergency such as September 11 when chaos overwhelms order, many of us depend on instinct.

For the more than 20,000 firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and rescue workers, they too relied on nothing more than their instinct. They came from near and far in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Virginia, Washington, DC, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. While we all know that they were thinking of their families as they did their jobs, they never let us know. Their instinct told them to get into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and do what ever they could to get people out of these buildings—alive.

As reports were coming in that the towers in New York were about to collapse, rescue workers continued helping people out of the burning buildings because that is what their instinct told them to do. As reports were coming in that the Pentagon might crumble, rescue workers continued working to pull survivors out of the rubble because that is what their in-

stinct told them to do. And when it became apparent that the only way to beat the hijackers was to crash their plane with them inside of it, the heroic passengers of United Airlines flight 93 put the lives of thousands in front of their own because that is what their instinct told them to do.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor and remember the true American heroes of September 11. For 50 days, these incredible individuals have been working at ground zero, in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. On behalf of the people of Florida's 23rd District, I say thank you to these heroes. More so, I ask them to continue doing what they are doing, not only out of instinct, but out of passion and conviction, and for the American people.

The work that America's rescue workers have done in the past 50 days, and will continue to do in the days, weeks, months, and years to come, serves as an example to the rest of our country. The irony of the terrorist attacks of September 11 is that the same terrorists who succeeded in destroying our buildings only made stronger the spirit that they had really hoped to break.

I know that this is true not only because my instinct tells me, but because my head and heart do as well. In the homes, offices, schools, and streets of this great country, the American spirit is stronger today than it has ever been in my lifetime. The actions of those at ground zero on September 11, and the actions of this country in the past 50 days, send a clear message to the rest of the world that America will not back down from anyone or anything. It never has, and it never will.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and may God bless America.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE RICHARD
LEE McMECHAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Lee McMechan, retiring Superior Court Judge of Mariposa County.

Judge McMechan began his education at Fullerton Junior College, and soon after, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Science from California State University of Long Beach in 1960. He proceeded to earn his law degree from Western State University College of Law in Anaheim in Orange County. During and after law school he served as a detective and traffic officer in Garden Grove from 1958–62. From 1962–72 he served as a Claims Manager/Supervisor at Kemper Insurance Company in Santa Ana. Judge McMechan also proudly served his country from Private to Sergeant in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve from 1956–62.

Judge McMechan was admitted to the California Bar Association on January 5, 1972. From 1972 to 1974 he handled insurance defense for Hunt, Liljestrom & Wentworth. Between 1974 and 1982 he was a sole practitioner for San Juan Capistrano and Santa Ana, in California. McMechan also served as

the Deputy District Attorney, part time, in Mariposa County from 1979–82. He served as Judge of the Sierra Judicial District Justice Court in Madera County from July 13, 1982 to November 16, 1987. On October 29, 1987 Judge McMechan was appointed to the position of Superior Court Judge and was officially elected Superior Court Judge on June 7, 1988.

Judge McMechan was born October 15, 1937 in Brea, California. He married Carol A. Wojciechowski on May 12, 1962. The couple have four successful children: Diedre, Kirsten, Darin and Bryan.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Richard Lee McMechan for his tremendous contributions to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Judge Richard Lee McMechan many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE HARVARD
LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend to my colleagues a beautifully written article by Benjamin L. McKean recounting the success earlier this year of the Harvard Living Wage Campaign.

Mr. McKean is a remarkable young activist who joined with many of his classmates in support of the campaign of low-wage workers at Harvard University to improve their wages, benefits, and working conditions. At a university which prides itself on training future leaders for the world at large, Mr. McKean and his young classmates decided to exercise leadership right at home on behalf of the less privileged in the Harvard community.

I submit Mr. McKean's article for insertion into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Crimson, May 9, 2001]

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

(By Benjamin L. McKean)

We have organized and won something tremendous in Harvard Yard these past three weeks. Since I entered Massachusetts Hall on April 18, workers at Harvard have seen countless victories. As part of the sit-in settlement, our janitors will begin negotiating a new contract more than a year early and any future pay increases will be retroactive to last week. The University committed to a good contract for our dining hall workers. The administration completely backed off from its threat to reclassify more than 100 of our dining hall workers at the Business School. They agreed to increase access to its English as a Second Language program and to immediately consider health care premiums for low-wage workers. Harvard agreed to a moratorium on outsourcing directly hired employees to subcontractors—and outsourcing has been the primary way the University has slashed wages and benefits for years. Alumni have donated more than \$10,000 to the Harvard Workers Center, which provides free legal aid and support to Harvard's poverty wage employees. And the University agreed to a committee to discuss the living wage with student and worker representation. Whatever concerns I have about

this committee, it makes a big difference knowing that some of the people on the receiving end of Harvard's poverty wages will be there to tell the other members of the committee exactly what that's like.

Perhaps most importantly, it is no longer possible for power to operate at Harvard without acknowledging the principle that people deserve a living wage. Our community has a responsibility to treat all its members decently, and we have told the people who thought they led our community that they must do that. Everyone in the Harvard Living Wage Campaign—workers, students, faculty, alumni, area residents—said no to indecent treatment, and to poverty wages. We said stop. All of us.

The past 21 days are not significant just because dozens of people occupied the President's office. The past 21 days are significant because of what happened outside of this building. Dining hall workers electrified Harvard Yard; worker-student solidarity is so strong that they want to have one of us help bargain their new contract. Faculty came together; about 400 of Harvard's famously individualistic professors together signed a letter calling for a living wage, and supporting the sit-in. Undergraduates turned out in record numbers for the largest rallies that the Yard has seen in decades, and students from every single graduate or professional school organized themselves in support in a completely unheralded way. Thousands of alumni called University President Neil L. Rudenstine, and even temporarily occupied the Harvard Club of New York. And our janitors and custodians organized rallies, trained themselves in civil disobedience and demanded decent treatment. And we all did it together. And so in the last 21 days we have won two victories; one in the form of substantive gains for Harvard workers, and the second a promise made today by this community—a promise to continue to fight for a living wage.

But our extraordinarily modest and simple demand for \$10.25 an hour makes a world of difference. On this campus, in this country, people have long fought for the principle that people should be treated without regard to race or to gender or to sexuality. That's because respecting the dignity of all people is the fundamental principle of any community, especially of an educational community. We think an education is valuable because we think people are valuable enough to educate. And for the past 21 days, this whole community came together to say that every one of us is valuable. Every one of us deserves a living wage. And all of us together, in solidarity as never before, told the people who said no that they must say yes.

We—all of us—have made this a time when power stopped. For 21 days, we occupied the offices of the people who thought they could block the consensus of our entire community. We asked power to justify its operation, and power found that it couldn't. For 21 days, the people who thought they could run this place without regard for students, for workers, for faculty, for alumni and for the Cambridge-area community—those people did not have a clue what to do. For 21 days it was not business as usual in the halls of power. We should have no illusions: this sit-in was all about coercion. We all decided that we would not go along with the Corporation's coercive power any more, that we would not let them force indecent poverty wages on members of our community.

While this tremendous victory marks the end of one phase of our campaign for a living wage, we do not expect the Corporation's co-

ercive power to disappear, and we do not expect this fight to end. We do not need to harbor a utopian fantasy in order to recognize that Harvard's administrators can and must treat people better and pay them better. So today's victory cannot be anything but partial.

Recognizing that, all of us should look ahead together to the day when we have won a living wage for all Harvard workers, and to the fights beyond that. Together, we can change not just the dialogue, but the reality of the conditions of Harvard's workers. We can turn the coercive power of the Corporation with the force of our collective yes. Together, in solidarity, we can make Harvard's power productive, make it a positive force and take it for workers. We have organized and won something tremendous here in Harvard Yard, because we have organized and won each other. And to keep winning—to win a living wage for all Harvard employees—we've got to keep organizing. Workers, students, faculty, alumni, parents, all community members energized from this victory should together build from here until everyone joins us in saying: Living wage now!

TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY FOR EFFORTS IN FUNDRAISING TO BENEFIT THE HEROES AND VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well of the House to congratulate the many people whose hard work and sacrifice resulted in a series of successful concerts to benefit the heroes and victims of the September 11th tragedies.

Last month, the music and entertainment worlds joined forces to raise funds to help those affected by the September 11th tragic events. On October 20th, Madison Square Garden hosted "The Concert for New York City." On October 21st, a second all-star benefit concert, "United We Stand," was held here in our nation's capital while a third concert, "The Country Freedom Concert" was hosted in Nashville.

These three concerts raised well over \$20 million in ticket sales, viewer pledges, and other donations. Proceeds from these shows will benefit the American Red Cross, the Pentagon Relief Fund, the Salvation Army and the Robin Hood Relief Fund.

This weekend of concerts joined many of the world's greatest performers with Clear Channel Entertainment to raise money in support of the recovery efforts from the September 11 attacks. These concerts in New York, Washington and Nashville featured appearances by Billy Joel, Paul McCartney, Bono, Elton John, the Backstreet Boys, James Taylor, Michael Jackson, NSYNC, Eric Clapton, James Brown, Ricky Martin, John Mellencamp, Marc Anthony, Aerosmith, Mariah Carey, Tim McGraw, Vince Gill, George Strait and countless others.

These concerts offered America another chance to help in our recovery efforts and national healing. I am proud to join these individ-

uals in standing up for America. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to watch the rebroadcast of the "United We Stand" concert tonight on ABC at 8 pm EST. Finally, I support this effort and commend the efforts of those in the music and entertainment community for their efforts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURING AMERICA FOR EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Securing America For Effective Transportation, or Safety, Act. This legislation is in stark contrast to the bureaucracy laden approaches of other bills. My bill would not create new federal spending nor new federal bureaucracies. The actions taken by this legislation fit into a few broad categories. First, it would give airline pilots the right to defend themselves, their aircraft, and their passengers by permitting them to bear arms. Second, it would clearly define the act of skyjacking as an act of piracy and provide appropriate punishment for any such act, up to and including capital punishment. Next, this legislation would provide appropriate strengthening of regulation of airline security in a fashion consistent with our constitutional framework. This would be done by requiring, for example, that law enforcement personnel be posted at screening locations rather than simply in the confines of an airport, and by requiring the production of passenger manifests for international flights. Finally, this bill would give airlines a strong incentive to improve passenger security, not by giving them taxpayer funded grants nor by creating new bureaucracies tasked with making administrative law, but rather by providing a tax incentive to airlines and other companies performing screening and security duties.

One example of my approach is how it treats employees. Rather than the Senate approach federalizing the work force or the House approach of subsidizing private security firms via federal contracts, my bill raises the take-home pay of airline security personnel by exempting their pay from federal income taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the House bill, while a slight improvement over the Senate version, is still a step in the wrong direction. By authorizing a new airline ticket tax, by creating new federal mandates and bureaucracies, and by subsidizing the airline industry to the tune of another \$3 billion dollars, this bill creates a costly expense that the American people cannot afford. We appropriated \$40 billion dollars in the wake of September 11, and I supported that measure as legitimate compensation for individuals and companies harmed by the failure of the federal government to provide national defense. Soon thereafter we made another \$15 billion available to the airlines, and now we have a House bill that further victimizes the taxpayers by making them pay for another \$3 billion dollars worth of subsidies to the airline industry.