

I believe it strikes the necessary balance, respecting Microsoft's strength and success while maintaining healthy competition in the technology sector. I believe it is an important step to restoring our nation's dynamic economy. I agree with Microsoft's Chairman Bill Gates that the settlement is fair, reasonable, and the right thing for the software industry.

Microsoft has long been an innovative leader. Microsoft stands as an example of the excellence of American enterprise. I respect Microsoft's role provided they leave the door open for the significant contribution and innovation of other firms. I admire Microsoft's commitment to the settlement and its ongoing commitment to improving its revolutionary software. I am confident that Microsoft will make the necessary changes to assuage and prove false its competitors who attack the company's cutting-edge productivity products as predatory. I am glad that both parties could come to an agreement that respects the important contributions Microsoft has made and will continue to make and that insures free competition, the hallmark of America's economy.

I am sure everyone involved would have preferred for this arrangement to be reached earlier. Still, the settlement is an important step in closing Microsoft's legal battles and allowing them time to focus on improving the way America does business. Both Microsoft and the Justice Department made significant compromises during the course of the settlement; I am pleased with the efforts of both parties and look forward to the energy this settlement will undoubtedly bring to the technology sector.

More than either party, consumers will benefit with Microsoft to focus fully on technological innovation, and with a more open market. Microsoft's settlement comes at a particularly advantageous time for New York and the rest of the country. America's premier software firm has much to offer the country through our current economic downturn. After substantial negotiations, the settlement has already strengthened the Stock Exchange and our economy. I am sure that Microsoft and her many competitors will be a crucial piece in leading our nation back to economic prosperity.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR IN RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H. Con. Res. 243 sponsored by Congressman JOSEPH CROWLEY. My wife DeDe and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Congressman CROWLEY and his family for the tragic loss of his cousin, John Moran, a Battalion Chief in the New York Fire Department, who died during the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Since September 11 we have listened to a myriad of accounts focusing on courageous

men and woman, often referred to as "guardian angels" who lost their lives during sheer acts of bravery at the World Trade Center and Pentagon. We have continued to watch firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency assistance personnel work around the clock as they tirelessly assist in the rescue and recovery efforts. We have been able to listen and focus on these heroes who have put their lives first and have displayed true loyalty and dedication to their role as emergency leaders.

The Medal of Valor is a symbol of our country's appreciation to all of those who have served over and beyond their basic duty and have helped us to rise from this great challenge. This medal ensures that these acts of courage on and after September 11 will never be forgotten. Their endurance and bravery has given us the unconditional strength to move forward and to focus on the positive energy that so many role models have displayed during these tragic times. Whether it be those who lost their lives or those who continue to assist in recovery projects, we have been able to look up to these heroes who have motivated us to reach out and unite.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH'S FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE COMPANY #1

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2001*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rescue Company #1 from the Elizabeth, New Jersey, Fire Department for their bravery and valor in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks. On November 7th, the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce will honor Rescue Company #1 with a special ceremony at the New Loews Theatre at Jersey Gardens Mall.

Rescue Company #1 was among the group of first responders to the World Trade Center after units from the New York Fire Department Rescue Squad perished in the collapse of the buildings. From September 11th until September 20th, this crew assisted in the hazardous recovery efforts. Working lengthy shifts and risking their own lives and well-being, this crew searched for survivors in smoldering heat and dangerous structures.

Since 1837, men and women from the Elizabeth Fire Department have continuously put themselves in harm's way to save lives and property. Through their courageous efforts, the Elizabeth Fire Department has served with honor and bravery.

The spirited and valiant efforts of our nation's firefighters are often overlooked or taken for granted. Therefore, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to the Elizabeth Fire Department for all they have done to ensure the safety and welfare of those who reside in New Jersey's 13th Congressional District.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rescue Company #1 for their immeasurable contributions. The Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce could not honor

a more deserving group than Rescue Company #1—remarkable individuals, who continue to inspire a nation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILBERT TEE LAWTON

**HON. JOSE E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 5, 2001*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Wilbert Tee Lawton. Mr. Lawton is the organizer of the Annual Legislative Breakfast which is hosted by Mount Hope Housing Company, a remarkable community development organization based in the Bronx, New York. This year, the 3rd Annual Legislative Breakfast takes place on November 2, 2001.

This annual breakfast brings together hundreds of legislators, business representatives, and community activists interested in the future of the Bronx. Ideas are shared, plans are made, and a spirit of change and empowerment is rampant as great minds come together at this event. The spirit of unity has always been present in the Bronx, but in the wake of the recent tragedies, it now reigns. This year's breakfast manifests a deeper sense of unity. Participants of the 3rd Annual Legislative Breakfast will continue to advance the resurgence of the Bronx community. They are aware that reaching our full potential as a community will serve as a stabilizing force for local business and educational initiatives and will also provide invaluable benefits to Bronx youth.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tee Lawton has been committed to making the Bronx a safer and more enjoyable place to live for over 20 years. He serves on a host of advisory boards and chairs the Echo Park "Drug Free, Proud To Be" Day, along with other youth-oriented events in the Bronx community. Mr. Lawton has made significant changes in the areas of drug abuse treatment, housing, local business development, environmental protection, health, and education.

Mr. Lawton has been a dynamic force in the Bronx and his experience is extensive. Mr. Lawton is an active member of the Goodwill Baptist Church, where he coordinates youth programs including the supervision of internship placements. He is fund-raising chairman for the Crotona Park Family Day. Mr. Lawton also sits on board of directors of Bronx Lebanon Hospital. He is active in several tenants associations and sits on advisory boards for Con Edison and Bell Atlantic. Mr. Speaker, I've mentioned only a portion of Mr. Lawton's civic activities. Remarkably, Mr. Lawton does all of these things while being an attentive husband and father. His dedication to social change makes him a valuable asset to the Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Tee Lawton on his many outstanding achievements and in wishing him continued success.