

segments of the community that need him the most. Through his tireless efforts, he helped Lawrence Lawson gain the appointment of assignment judge, the first black person to achieve this esteemed position.

Through his ministry he spreads the word of God and provides spiritual leadership, while simultaneously, he fights to improve the social well-being of all. Now entering his 25th year of service, I would like to congratulate Rev. Vernon McGowen on this momentous occasion.

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE WORLD
TRADE CENTER CRISIS: THE IM-
PACT ON NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, 2001, I introduced H.R. 2992, the Mental Health Parity Enhancement Act of 2001. Clearly, we all have come to understand mental health is critical to the health and well being of our country and all Americans. I rise today to submit compelling, timely remarks about the mental health impact of terrorism as extraneous materials to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On October 3, 2001, during the American Psychiatric Association's Annual Mental Illness Awareness Week Congressional Luncheon Symposium, in which they are joined by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, one of my most dedicated and brilliant constituents, Herb Pardes, M.D., President and CEO of New York Presbyterian Hospital, gave an enlightening and heartfelt presentation about the New York hospital system's response to the World Trade Center crisis. He discussed the phenomenal emergency medical services provided to victims by the New York healthcare system and also the resulting impact on the mental health of New York City and our Nation.

Allow me to include excerpts of Dr. Pardes' October 3 remarks into the RECORD:

There are many perspectives on this tragic situation. First, it is probably the most horrendous tragedy I, and I am sure many others, have ever had the misfortune to experience. The disaster for me started while I was in my office and heard that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. I could see it on television and also see the World Trade Center from my office. I could watch it in both places. It was unreal, unbelievable, but we had to snap into action.

Hospitals in New York, ours included, went into emergency status immediately. And that meant we stopped elective clinics and elective surgery, and tried to increase our capacity in anticipation of seeing a large number of patients coming.

We have a phenomenal emergency medical services team. Many of them were at the World Trade Center within eight or nine minutes of the crash. Tragically, they got caught when the buildings fell. We lost three heroes! You cannot ask for finer people and losing them is a deep tragedy for all of us.

We prepared teams of doctors and nurses in the emergency room. We decanted patients to other facilities to increase capacity. We

arranged for staff to be able to stay at the hospital, in the event that we needed them, because we did not want them to go home and not be able to get back. Volunteers came from everywhere. People by the thousands wanted to donate blood.

People were calling looking for their relatives. A friend of mine, Neil Levin, the head of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was lost in this tragedy. His wife was sending pictures around, so we could determine whether it matched any of the unidentified people who were already in our burn unit.

We had a number of staff meetings to keep people informed and to make sure we were well coordinated. The healthcare people responded magnificently. Everybody was trying to help. Any preexisting tensions between people were set aside and instead people tried to be helpful and collaborative.

We had good responses from many, many different hospitals, from the Greater New York Hospital Association, which set up a 24-hour coordinating post, from the State Commissioner of Health's Office, from the City Office of Emergency Management, and others. State Commissioner Antonia Novello came to visit us several times and helped us with replacement staffing, especially for nurse specialists.

We received calls from the Boston teaching hospitals, from the Air Force, from David Nexon in Senator Kennedy's office, offering help for burn victims with skin replacements from a biotech company in Massachusetts.

Our government officials were sensational—our Congressional people, our Senators—Senator Clinton, Senator Schumer, the Congressional representatives, Mayor Giuliani, Governor Pataki. People volunteered every conceivable way they could.

Several thousand patients apparently were seen for health care in the first 48 hours. We saw close to 800. In addition, there were a thousand or so people who came for help with decontamination and another 4000 people who were seen for behavioral health visits related to the impact of stress. Of course, there were many others who went directly to their own doctors' offices. These data still have to be confirmed, but they give you some indication of the numbers involved.

Our greatest disappointment was that we did not have more survivors. We were ready, the teams wanted to work, and they felt extraordinarily frustrated and impotent at not being able to do more.

This disaster has had quite an impact on the hospitals. We, of course, spent money on additional supplies; we had 7 of our ambulances and 2 vans destroyed when the buildings came down. We had to pay for additional staff, for overtime.

Also, the hospitals are very volume sensitive. When we stopped all our elective and routine work and then did not have all the emergency work we thought we would get, we sustained a substantial financial hit. This decline lasted for a number of days. Then, for the next few weeks with all the transportation lines clogged, the hospitals' availability for health services was made difficult. People could not get to us. Around the City there was a sharp drop in healthcare activity.

Hospitals cannot cut expenses so suddenly. The New York City hospitals face a big financial problem, which, I think, will be in the range of \$300-400 million over a period of several months. This problem will continue until we attain a return to normal function.

With regard to the impact on people, which is perhaps the most important, it was re-

markable how many people were filled with disbelief. I mentioned impotence before. They have had every feeling you could imagine. Anxiety, frights, depression, a feeling of being dazed, a feeling that they could not get themselves going.

This was true of our staff, it was true of patients who came in, it was true of family members, it was true of everybody.

The psychiatric needs were considerable and increased over time. We set up two 24-hour counseling services and staff saw people on site and other places. They saw relatives; they saw psychiatric patients who had become destabilized as a result of the tragedy. They went to business friends who lost numbers of employees and those who did not but who had suffered massive stress. Our staff went to schools; they went to fire departments.

There were people who were in buildings adjacent to the crash who were terribly shocked and stressed even though no deaths occurred in that particular business.

Our burn unit admitted 25 patients. Some had moderate or minor burns and so they did not stay very long. But, we had a number who were serious. One died before arriving at the hospital. Three more have died since. We still have about fourteen who are seriously burned and we are hoping to bring all of them to recovery.

Our first patient with serious burns was discharged on Tuesday, October 2nd. Most remarkable, when you listen to him as well as many others, is the pressure of survivor guilt. His focus was: "What couldn't I help other people, why did this happen?" He feels he has a second chance. He was very appreciative to the people who had been helpful to him. He was modest, and came across in a serene and endearing way.

We have had others: a woman whose husband found her in the street after her back was burned and her Achilles tendon severed. She could barely walk; he helped pick her up and take her to an ambulance and get her out of there just in time. There were many, many stories like that.

In summary, this is a tragedy of unspeakable proportions, whose impact I think is being realized in increasing increments as each day goes by.

The one bright light, you can say, is the tremendous response and sense of unity, of cooperation. We have a terrific pride in our Country and our fellow citizens and our health providers. Everybody pitched in.

I feel that everyone is affected by this disaster. On the other hand, the thing that disturbs us most is that there were not more survivors. I am thankful that a lot of people did get out. We wanted all to be survivors; we wanted to be there to care for them.

There is also a severe jolt to the New York health system. The hospitals have already been too heavily stressed. We have to wonder whether we have left ourselves with such little elasticity in healthcare capacity that, if there were another tragedy involving many people needing care, whether we could handle it.

We have to make sure our hospitals and health systems stay strong. We must insure that they are not constantly undermined by budget cuts, so they can be there when we need them. We particularly need specialized services like burn centers when we have major disasters. When they happen, the services need to be in place. Such services are usually in academic health centers, and they are vital.

We also need to have mental health services both financially supported and provide

insurance coverage so people can get services. That means broad coverage and parity for mental health. Going forward, we are not sure what we are in for, but it is important for this Nation to stay strong—for people to be powerfully together—and for us to have a health system that can be there when the need arises.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF
MEMORIAL SCHOOL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of Memorial School in Taylorville, Illinois, and their important and heartwarming efforts to help those affected by terrorism.

On October 11, 2001, President Bush made a request of the children of America. He challenged each of them to earn and send in one dollar. This money, sent by the kindness of the children of the United States, will be used to reach out to the unfortunate children in far off Afghanistan.

The students of Memorial School heard and met that challenge. The students of Memorial raised over \$160.00 for the Fund for Afghan Children. Two students—Bandom Reber and Robbie Spurling—headed up a fund raising drive that collected donations from every single student in the school. In all, they received over \$160 dollars for the fund to help the children of Afghanistan.

The students, parents, faculty, and members of the Taylorville community should be recognized for this fine effort. The terrorists believed they could accomplish their goals with the murder of American innocents; but the American citizens have responded with aid to the innocents of Afghanistan. Nothing else could better show how utterly Al Qaeda has failed.

Mr. Speaker, as President Bush said in his announcement of the Fund for Afghan Children, "One of the truest weapons that we have against terrorism is to show the world the true strength of character of the American people." The children of Memorial School have shown that character, and they deserve our thanks. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

GUATEMALA'S 36-YEAR CIVIL WAR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the genocide that was committed during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, although far exceeding the death tolls reached in Bosnia, as well as in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Argentina and Chile combined, has yet to receive proper attention from the international community. Fortunately, the slow march of justice may finally be reaching Guatemala, as indigenous Mayan survivors of over a dozen massacres—out of an estimated

600 committed during that era—are speaking out, accusing former dictator Efraim Rios Montt of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

An association of surviving indigenous Maya is specifically suing the ex-general on charges related to the massacres in which 1,200 lives were lost. At these bloodlettings, which occurred between March and December 1982, peasants throughout the Mayan highlands were raped, tortured and murdered, with their bodies tossed into the large pits serving as mass graves. The locations of these ossuaries were known for years, but left undisturbed until recently.

During Guatemala's bloody three-decade old civil war, more than 200,000 died and millions were displaced as Rios Montt rose to power, eventually leading a military coup that seized control of the government in 1982. Once in office, Rios Montt took the civil war to new levels of violence by attacking the thousands of indigenous Maya who he claimed comprised the bulk of the revolutionaries. Under the ensuing reign of terror, he utilized notorious Civil Defense patrols and "model" villages (officially known as social re-adaptation centers), which were akin to concentration camps. Males thirteen and older were required to serve in Civil Defense patrols, which operated as paramilitary units supervised by the army, with their mission being to act as informants and kill suspected guerrillas. The most devastating of Rios Montt's actions was the implementation of the "scorched earth" policy, which called for hundreds of villages to be burned to the ground and thousands of innocent people to be tortured and murdered.

To this day, Rios Montt continues to retain plenary power within Guatemala's government, as president of Congress and de facto president of the country, by controlling the country's nominal president, Alfonso Portillo, who has been denounced for alleged corruption by many Guatemalans. Furthermore, since the initiation of the case against Rios Montt, terror and incessant threats have followed those pursuing justice.

Observers feel that if successfully argued, the case against Rios Montt could form the basis of hope for national reconciliation regarding the bitter memories of the victims of the atrocities committed against the Mayan community during the 36-year conflict. To only bring the case to trial would represent a most notable victory for those involved, as well as for the country's otherwise discredited judicial system, setting a precedent that hopefully could serve as a formidable deterrent for those contemplating the future use of terror against the public.

THE COUNCIL ON HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS

The Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), a nonprofit, tax-exempt independent research and information organization, was founded at the end of 1975 to promote the common interest of the hemisphere, raise the visibility and increase the importance of the inter-American relationship, as well as encourage the formulation of rational and constructive U.S. policies towards Latin America. In 1982, COHA's board of trustees voted to expand its mandate to include monitoring Canadian/Latin American relations. Since its inception, COHA has been one of the most active and broadest-based U.S. pri-

vate bodies dealing with the entire spectrum of political, economic and diplomatic issues, as well as the economic and political challenges confronting the Inter-American nations.

From its founding, COHA's board consisted of the leadership of some of this country's most important trade unions, professional organizations and religious groups, well as distinguished civic and academic figures who joined together to advance their common belief in support of representative government and pluralistic institutions throughout the hemisphere.

COHA subscribes to no specific political credo nor does it maintain partisan allegiances. It supports open and democratic political processes just as it consistently has condemned authoritarian regimes of any stripes that fail to provide their populations with even minimal standards of political freedoms, economic and social justice, personal security and civic guarantees.

COHA is entirely staffed by a professional core, who contribute their services, supplemented by a large number of volunteer graduated and undergraduate students who often receive academic credit from their home institutions for the experience gained through their work here. Over the years, retired government employees also have cooperated with COHA in preparing monographs on such topics as regional development, trade policies, technology transfer, the operations of multinational corporations and the controversial development strategies of the international lending agencies. The staff is assisted by a number of extra-mural professionals coming from an academic background who serve as COHA senior research fellows, who are generally considered to be leaders in their respective fields of expertise.

COHA's analyses are frequently sought after by the major media, with its long-time director, Larry Birns, as well as other senior personnel regularly being called upon by the major national and international press, along with network radio and TV public affairs programs, to provide commentary on breaking regional issues. COHA contributors also appear regularly in the opinion columns on editorial pages throughout the country, and its findings frequently have been heard and seen over the BBC, Voice of America, CBC, Radio Marti, Radio Havana and U.S. radio programs. COHA personnel also have appeared one or more times on CNN, C-Span, Firing Line, Crossfire, Nightline, the CBS, ABC and NBC evening news, as well as the network Larry King program, "Good Morning America" and the "Today Show," and many National Public Radio public affairs programs.

COHA's personnel have been interviewed, or the organization's findings have been referred to in such publications as Time, Newsweek, the Atlantic Monthly, U.S. News and World Report, New York Magazine, Harper's, the New Yorker, the New Statesman Barron's, and Maclean's. On almost a daily basis, the results of COHA's work appear in the press of Latin America and Europe. COHA also has been cited in numerous occasions in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, the Christian Science monitor, the London Observer, the Boston Globe, the Miami Herald, the Toronto Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, the London Independent and the Guardian, among many other newspapers.

COHA has been referred to in the floor of the Senate as "one of our Nation's most respected bodies of scholars and policy-makers."