

December 7, 2001

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
IN HONORING THE CREW AND
PASSENGERS OF UNITED AIR-
LINES FLIGHT 93

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 232, which formally expresses the sentiment of Congress in honoring the crew and passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93.

On September 11, 2001, four aircraft were hijacked and then simultaneously used as weapons of mass destruction against the United States. Through the selfless acts of the crew and passengers, one of those aircraft, United Airlines Flight 93, fell far short of its intended target—Washington, D.C. I have no doubt that it is because of the heroic actions taken by the crew and passengers of Flight 93, that the Washington D.C. area did not sustain more damage. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

Like the Pan Am 103 terrorist attack in December 1988, the events of September 11th have challenged us as a nation, and have forced this Congress and this Administration to re-evaluate the state of security for domestic and international commercial air service.

On November 19, 2001, President Bush signed into law the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (P.L. 107-71). This Act completely overhauls our nation's aviation security system. In addition to integrating all security functions within a new Transportation Security Administration, the Act also federalizes the screening workforce to greatly improve the quality of the screening process. Further, the Act mandates 100 percent checked-baggage screening, strengthens cockpit security, expands the Federal Air Marshal program, and ensures that all crewmembers receive proper training to deal with terrorist attacks. These changes will go far to close loopholes in aviation security. Equally important, however, is to ensure that our intelligence gathering keeps pace with these new threats. Credible, potential threat information must be readily synthesized and disseminated to prevent a future tragedy such as that befalling Flight 93.

Eleven years ago, the President's Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism, on which I served as a Commissioner, recommended that we become more aggressive in our intelligence gathering, evaluation, and dissemination. Quoting from the report,

The Commission also recommends greater emphasis within the intelligence community on developing a specific union whose principle function will be long-term strategic thinking and planning on terrorism. The objective is to be better able to anticipate future terrorist strategies and tactics, rather than simply to react to incidents as they occur.

This is the most challenging aspect of our aviation security network. It is difficult to penetrate these highly-secretive organizations that operate on a war-like footing. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act requires the

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

coordination and sharing and dissemination of intelligence information among federal agencies, including the new Transportation Security Administration. Counter-terrorism also requires renewed higher-level coordination through Interpol, with our allies, and with other nations like Russia and China, as the PanAm Commission recommended eleven years ago. The skills of terrorists have stepped up several levels since the Commission's 1990 report. We must ensure that our counter-intelligence rises to meet that threat.

With the appropriate counter-intelligence efforts and security implemented to the fullest extent, we can ensure that the legacy of the crew and passengers of Flight 93 is world-class aviation and inter-modal security system. Our citizens can forever enjoy the freedom of travel that this great nation provides to the envy of the rest of the world.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

THE CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor H.R. 2722 to give it my full support and urge my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation. This bill will improve the lives of countless persons in Africa and around the world.

For too long, the diamond trade has been a source of funds for violent rogue leaders and their cronies to purchase the weapons they use to terrorize, dominate, and murder innocent civilians in some of the world's most desperate countries. The illegal diamond trade has also been a significant source of funds for the al Qaeda terrorist organization and Osama bin Laden. Wars have been fought and entire populations have been eliminated in pursuit of this dirty money, but today the United States Congress will act to cut off the flow of these "Conflict Diamonds."

Today, we take the first step to prohibit the importation of conflict diamonds and their derivatives into the United States. This will have an immediate and major impact on the international diamond market. The United States is a major buyer of diamonds, and our importation policy will immediately begin to end the trade in conflict diamonds and force international diamond brokers to certify that their suppliers do not engage in illegal activities.

I am pleased to see that the United States is taking such swift and determined action on this important issue. This is an important day for international human rights, and our actions here today will have a lasting impact on the lives of millions around the world. Please join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 2722.

24567

IN HONOR OF NICOLE CHRIS-STINA
MASON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Nicole Chris-stina Mason in recognition of her selection as the Concerned Women of Brooklyn's Youth of the Year.

Nicole Chris-stina Mason was born in Brooklyn on October 8, 1984 and she has been raising eyebrows ever since. She is currently a junior at Boys and Girls High with a B average in the honors program. As she looks to the future, Nicole is preparing for the challenges and opportunities that will be offered in college. She is planning attending either Ohio State or the University of Florida to study Computer Engineering next fall.

In addition to focusing on her schoolwork, Nicole is involved in numerous other activities. At Boys and Girls High School, during the spring semester, Nicole is a part of the softball team. She has been on the team now for three-years and hopes to continue playing in college. Also, during her lunchtime, Nicole volunteers in the school snack store. When she is not in school, Nicole works part-time at McDonald's to save money for college.

During Nicole's young life she has already received numerous honors: in junior high school, Nicole received the Principal Award for being on the honor roll for both years of Junior High School; she received an athletic award, a leadership award, a Presidential Education Award signed by then President Bill Clinton, and a Science Award from the United Federation of Teachers Science Committee for my Science Award winning 1st place in the science fair. More recently, at Boys and Girls High School she has received awards in math and computer as "student of the month", a Martin Luther King Jr. Award, an Achievement Award, several Honor Roll plaques, and also had her picture and biography in the United States Achievement Academy 2000 National Awards book for Foreign Language. Outside of school, she has received a Choir Member of the Year Award from Berean Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, Nicole Chris-stina Mason is a rising star. She has received numerous awards and is just beginning what will be a life full of success. This weekend she is being honored by the Concerned Women of Brooklyn as their Youth of the Year. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this young woman on the cusp of stardom.

HONORING SHERIFF PATRICK J.
SULLIVAN, JR.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great privilege to have this opportunity to pay