

trucks, cars and subway trains. It appeared on apartments, shop windows, buildings, houses, street signs, light poles and trees. It was worn on lapels, shirts, jackets and hats. It was carried by hand and was waved on high. It was draped on the smoldering steel frames of a once mighty edifice, as a proud badge of honor and an unmistakable pledge of resolve and perseverance in the face of unconscionable evil. The Flag of the United States of America became our rallying cry and our inspiration, just as it has countless times before in the face of tragedy and adversity. It asked nothing in return, just the chance to serve us if we needed something beyond ourselves to remind us of our goal.

There is an incredible historical mosaic that blends and intertwines the past and the present in every city, town, and village in America. That mosaic was never more vividly displayed than in the streets of downtown New York on those fateful days in September 2001.

212 years ago President George Washington knelt down in St. Paul's Chapel, nestled near the Battery on the island of Manhattan, New York. It was April 30, 1789. He had walked to St. Paul's from Federal Hall, where he had just been inaugurated as the first President of the United States. He prayed for guidance to lead a fledgling nation, with honor, into the unknown waters of a new concept of government.

On September 16, 2001 Mayor Rudy Giuliani knelt down in St. Paul's Chapel on the island of Manhattan in the area now known as Ground Zero. He prayed for guidance to lead his wounded city, with honor, in a humanitarian rescue and recovery effort of unparalleled proportions.

St. Paul's is a stone's throw from the World Trade Plaza. It was saved and preserved during the skyscraper construction that totally surrounds it, only because it was listed on the Historic Registry! The twin towers rained down million of tons of debris that rocked the ground with the force of an earthquake. Loose steel and concrete tore apart mightily buildings and filled the city streets around this hallowed site. But not one pane of stained glass in the chapel windows was broken.

At Washington's National Cathedral, President George W. Bush spoke for America to the clerics of all faiths, to our national leaders and to the United Nations representatives assembled in the pews of the cathedral. He humbly prayed for guidance to lead this country and indeed the civilized world, into a new age of freedom from terror and tyranny.

We now realize that the splendor of this new millennium cannot be achieved if we do not meet this worldwide challenge to our very way of life. A challenge that heretofore existed only in shadows and darkness, but now is clear and visible and formidable. The task that lies ahead is a daunting task that will require courage, judgment, patience and—above all—perseverance. The American people are up to the task!

Let us pledge to each other our will, our commitment, our strength and our steadfast unity. Working together as one people, we can strive to meet the three primary goals of this great nation that are so eloquently described in the Declaration of Independence: That personal security of life without fear; the cherished freedoms of our individual and societal liberty; and, the profound enjoyment inherent in the pursuit of happiness and prosperity.

Our nation has issued a Call to Honor. The American people and our noble leaders have

stood up bravely and answered the call. They have answered the call with their sacrifice, their deeds and their generosity. They have proudly proclaimed their unity by gathering together with the one and only tangible object that truly represents each one of us individually and all of us collectively—the Flag of the United States.

America United is no longer a slogan. America United is now a reality!

SPEECH BY COUNTY COMMISSIONER RON RANKIN OF KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House a recent speech by County Commissioner Ron Rankin of Kootenai County, Idaho. Ron is a veteran of the United States Marines and is a tireless defender, like all Idahoans, of the rights our veterans preserved for us through their devotion. This speech was given by Commissioner Rankin on the occasion of the dedication of a new veteran's memorial. I urge my colleagues to read this speech and remember the sacrifices our veterans made for us and the continued sacrifices being made today by our men and women in uniform. With the consent of the House I would like to insert that speech for the record.

KOOTENAI COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL DEDICATION, NOVEMBER 10, 2001

(By Commissioner Ronald D. Rankin)

Once there was a nation of patriots, men, women, and children who loved their country, their flag, and their freedom, and the independence guaranteed by their divinely inspired United States Constitution. They honored their soldiers who fought to preserve their freedom and independence.

Then came the Korean War, the first war our country fought that we were politically prohibited from winning. This was followed by the Viet Nam War where hoards of drug crazed traitors cursed and spat upon combat veterans returning from a war that cost over 50 thousand casualties. Our fighting men and women were pilloried for the treasonous political decisions that protracted that war far longer than any other in our history.

That "hippie generation" is now being replaced by a generation which has never witnessed a war like those of the 20th Century—a generation that will determine the future of our country, our United States constitution, and our freedom.

They must be taught and reminded what American veterans have sacrificed for them to be able to live in freedom.

To that end, and through most generous private contributions, Kootenai County citizens are carving highlights of history into stone. A remembrance of some of the great moments in history that have molded and formed our futures.

Each of the fourteen laser-etched stone photo panels on this wall will represent a major military mark in history.

On the inside of the foyer/gallery, will be found separate pamphlets each describing a great event of military history.

One will describe in detail the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, not the entire World

War II but only Pearl Harbor. Another will describe in detail the barbaric Bataan Death March, where American prisoners of war were tortured, murdered and taken to Japan to work as slaves in the mines; another, the turning point of World War II in the Pacific—the Battle of Midway, where the sinking of so many Japanese aircraft carriers effectively broke the back of the Japanese fleet.

Two Jima; how that well known flag photograph came to be, and at what terrible cost.

The Navajo Code Talkers; American Indian patriots who saved the lives of thousands of their fellow Marines, sending and receiving combat messages in their ancient tongue that was undecipherable by Japanese intelligence.

A detailed account of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir in 1950 in North Korea—an epic in Marine Corps history.

The epic landing at Normandy on "D" Day—1944.

The heroic 2nd Rangers scaling a 100 ft. cliff to take a German pill box at the top of the coastal cliffs of Normandy.

The Battle of the Bulge. The hard fought heroic battles that were the turning point in the war in Europe.

The air war over Europe and the heroes of the B-17's.

The emergence of helicopters and river gun boats as weapons of choice in Vietnam. These and more to be added, will be a source of unrevised history for our youth of future generations as well as some of our adults of today who have little knowledge of the sacrifice of our combat veterans past and present.

It is our resolve here today in dedicating this memorial wall, that our veterans will retake their places of honor and respect in the minds of those so blessed by the freedom they enjoy. A legacy of the sacrifices of the generations of patriots past and present who have worn the uniform of our country with pride and dedication to the principles we all hold dear.

May God Continue to Bless America in all of her righteous endeavors.

This I ask humbly in the name of Jesus Christ—Amen.

BIPARTISAN TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3005, the Trade Promotion Authority Act.

I certainly recognize the value of trade, but contrary to the claims of the GOP leadership and Administration, passing fast track is not just about trade and the economy. It's about health, human rights, consumer and environmental standards. Unfortunately, the Thomas "fast track" bill is a roadmap to undermining these standards globally.

As members of Congress, we have an important role in shaping future trade agreements. As the influence of trade extends to other areas including health, education, and the environment, we must ensure that trade agreements reflect the values and standards that we have worked so hard to uphold. If we