

Whereas the Lao-Hmong, although outnumbered, fought against enemy forces to disrupt the flow of troops and war supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail;

Whereas the Lao-Hmong protected United States personnel, guarded United States Air Force radar installations, gathered critical intelligence about enemy operations, and undertook rescue missions to save the lives of downed United States pilots;

Whereas more than 35,000 of the Lao-Hmong lost their lives defending the democratic way of life, and many more were seriously injured and disabled;

Whereas thousands of Lao-Hmong suffered grievous injuries and permanent disabilities, and thousands more were captured and sent to Communist concentration camps;

Whereas after the conclusion of the war, many Lao-Hmong soldiers were the victims of acts of retribution and atrocities by the Pathet Lao, causing many of the Lao-Hmong to flee to neighboring Thailand and become refugees; and

Whereas beginning with the City Council of Golden, Colorado, in 1995, various State and local governments have issued proclamations declaring July 22 as Lao-Hmong Recognition Day, and the issuance of a Presidential proclamation supporting the goals of Lao-Hmong Recognition Day would recognize the bravery, sacrifice, and loyalty to the United States exhibited by the Lao-Hmong in Southeast Asia: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That it is the sense of the Congress that the President should issue a proclamation—

(1) supporting the goals of Lao-Hmong Recognition Day;

and

(2) calling on the people of the United States to recognize the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the Lao-Hmong with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Agreed to December 10, 2001.

## AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 587 CRASH VICTIMS AND HEROES—CONDOLENCES AND COMMENDATIONS

Dec. 10, 2001

[H. Con. Res. 272]

Whereas American Airlines Flight 587 en route from John F. Kennedy Airport in Queens County, New York, to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, crashed on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens County, New York, on November 12, 2001;

Whereas the crash resulted in a tragic loss of life estimated at 265 individuals, including passengers, crew members, and people on the ground;

Whereas New York City has strong cultural, familial, and historic ties to the Dominican Republic;

Whereas many of the passengers of American Airlines Flight 587 were of Dominican origin and resided in the Washington Heights community, a vibrant neighborhood which is an integral part of our national cultural mosaic;

Whereas the Rockaway community has already suffered greatly as a result of the attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, as home to the highest concentration of firefighters in New York City, many of whom lost their lives at the World Trade Center;

Whereas many Rockaway residents ignored the risks and rushed to the site of the plane crash in an effort to help;

Whereas the people of the Rockaway community have served as an inspiration through their resilience in the face of adversity and their faith in and practice of community; and

Whereas the professional emergency personnel on the ground performed valiantly limiting the devastation of this tragedy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) sends its heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens County, New York, on November 12, 2001;

(2) sends its sympathies to the people of the Dominican Republic and to the Dominican community in New York City;

(3) sends its sympathies to the people of the Rockaway community;

(4) commends the heroic actions of the rescue workers, volunteers, and State and local officials who responded to this tragic event with courage, determination, and skill; and

(5) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the Dominican Republic.

Agreed to December 10, 2001.

## ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM—10TH ANNUAL MEETING

Dec. 11, 2001  
[S. Con. Res. 58]

Whereas the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum was founded by former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1993;

Whereas the Tokyo Declaration, signed by 59 parliamentarians from 15 countries, entered into force as the founding charter of the forum on January 14 and 15, 1993, establishing the basic structure of the forum as an interparliamentary organization;

Whereas the original 15 members, one of which was the United States, have increased to 27 member countries;

Whereas the forum serves to promote regional identification and cooperation through discussion of matters of common concern to all member states and serves, to a great extent, as the legislative arm of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation;

Whereas the focus of the forum lies in resolving political, economic, environmental, security, law and order, human rights, education, and cultural issues;

Whereas the forum will hold its tenth annual meeting on January 6 through 9, 2002, which will be the first meeting of the forum hosted by the United States;