

prevent these ugly acts of terrorism against our country.

Mr. Speaker, terrorism is everyone's enemy and a civilized world needs to ban together to fight terrorism. Here in America, we have had September 11; but 6,000 miles away, the brave people of Israel every day have to cope with ongoing acts of terror. The other day two horrific suicide bombings killed nearly 20 people, and 2 weeks ago, when I was in Israel, a bus bombing killed 22 people, including 5 Americans, 3 of my constituents.

When I go back to New York every week and look at the New York skyline and do not see the World Trade Center, I feel our city is not yet whole and something is missing. It has been 2 years since September 11, 2001, but I feel like I have aged 20 years since then. In my office is a two-page spread from the New York Times. It has pictures of the 300-plus firefighters who died that day in New York. Most of the pictures are of young men who are the same age as my daughter. One of them is the picture of a friend's son, Christian Regenhart.

When I look at the faces of these brave people, I have often thought what can I, as a Congressman, do to ensure this never happens again, and I think we need to make sure that the funding is there so our first responders can respond, and we need to make sure that the brave people who protect us have all the resources they need. We need to also make sure that the people who lost their lives that day are never forgotten. In a few minutes, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and I are going to talk about the True American Heroes Act of 2003.

The bill posthumously awards Congressional Gold Medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and who perished, and to people aboard United Airlines Flight 93. We owe it to ourselves and our families and our countrymen to ensure this never happens again.

THE UNCONQUERABLE AMERICAN SPIRIT

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the world reflects this morning upon an act of barbarism that remains too horrific for words. Two years ago, a gang of murderers shattered our complacency regarding the reach and resolve of the international merchants of hate.

Nevertheless, we also learned about the resiliency of our Nation on that awful day. When terrorists attacked the heart of America's financial and military centers, they forgot about the heart of the American people. Our country's strength lies not in its institutions, but in the courage, character and the determination of the people who built them.

On this somber anniversary, we honor the memory of the husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters who lost their lives in this heinous attack, as well as the heroes who sacrificed everything to save them.

As we remember the trauma and grief of September 11, 2001, may we continue to discover the seeds of hope and the endurance of the unconquerable American spirit.

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it was the brother of a man from The Dalles, the son of parents from Pendleton that perished, the extent of the tragedy that struck America, the terrible terrorist acts of September 11 spread like tentacles across the country.

While our innocence was shattered that day, America's resolve and our commitment and unity was invigorated and strengthened. We have responded domestically in strengthening our security. We have responded internationally in building coalitions to take the battle to the terrorists. We have had great victories. We face great challenges.

Together as a country, and as a Congress under the leadership of our President, we are making a difference for our first responders at home and to secure our borders, to make air traffic safer and air travel safer, and to root out the terrorists where they are, instead of waiting for them to come back here. We have seized 1,400 bank accounts and \$200 million, two-thirds of al Qaeda's leadership were killed, and 42 of 55 of Saddam Hussein's top advisors, strategists and planners of hate are no longer a problem. We all know there is more work to do. As a Congress and as a country, we must resolve to do that work, to do it with a clear focus and a great unity which befits this great country of ours. Together we are Americans, and may we ask for God's blessing for our leadership and our future.

TRUE AMERICAN HEROES ACT OF 2003

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of September 10, 2003, I call up the bill (H.R. 1538) to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and perished and to the people aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who helped resist the hijackers and caused the plane to crash, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Spirit of America, recognizing the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and

for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of H.R. 1538 is as follows:

H.R. 1538

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "True American Heroes Act of 2003".

TITLE I—MEDALS FOR RESPONDERS AND RESISTERS

SEC. 101. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS WHO RESPONDED TO THE ATTACKS ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AND PERISHED.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—In recognition of the bravery and self-sacrifice of officers, emergency workers, and other employees of State and local government agencies, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and of the United States Government and others, who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, and perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001 (including those who are missing and presumed dead), the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design for each such officer, emergency worker, employee, or other individual to the next of kin or other personal representative of each such officer, emergency worker, employee, or other individual.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary to be emblematic of the valor and heroism of the men and women honored.

(c) DETERMINATION OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the number of medals to be presented under this section and the appropriate recipients of the medals after consulting with appropriate representatives of Federal, State, and local officers and agencies and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

(d) DUPLICATIVE GOLD MEDALS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DUTY STATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike duplicates in gold of the gold medals struck pursuant to subsection (a) for presentation to each of the following, for permanent display in the respective offices, houses, stations, or places of employment:

(A) The Governor of the State of New York.

(B) The Mayor of the City of New York.

(C) The Commissioner of the New York Police Department, the Commissioner of the New York Fire Department, the head of emergency medical services for the City of New York, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

(D) Each precinct house, fire house, emergency response station, or other duty station or place of employment to which each person referred to in subsection (a) was assigned on September 11, 2001, for display in each such place in a manner befitting the memory of such persons.

(e) DUPLICATE BRONZE MEDALS.—Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under subsection (a) at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,