

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF
HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the eighth anniversary of September 11th to commemorate this momentous day in American history. My heart goes out to the thousands of innocent people who were taken from their loved ones and fellow citizens, and I am mindful of the many sacrifices made by the members of our armed forces and their families as they stand in harm's way to protect our great nation.

The victims of the September 11th attacks were a microcosm of America. In the Twin Towers, on the hijacked planes, at the Pentagon, there were mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, friends; there were millionaire bond traders and minimum wage busboys; there were service men and women, police officers and firefighters; there were people of every race and religion, from dozens of countries, all with their own dreams and disappointments; all bound by an invisible thread . . . our common humanity. And we are forever bound to them, and to each other.

September 11th, 2001 was one of our nation's darkest days. But it illuminated some simple and important truths . . . that it means something special to be an American—something more than the happenstance of where you were born. It relates to the unending quest on the part of “we the people” to “form a more perfect union” and to a concept of the common good. Being an American means having a commitment to our collective well-being.

In memory of all those who perished on September 11th, in respect to the survivors, in gratitude to the rescuers, and for the sake of ourselves and our posterity, I recall the words of President Kennedy: “Let us not be blind to our differences—but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.”

Mr. Speaker, during the vote on H. Res. 722, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the U.S. on September 11th, 2001, I was absent from the House. I want my colleagues and constituents of the 2nd District of Wisconsin to know that I intended to vote yes on this resolution. I am grateful to my colleagues, Mr. HOYER and Mr. BOEHNER, for their work in seeing it passed.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING FLORENCE LEWIS ON ACHIEVING HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Florence Lewis will soon celebrate her 100th birthday; and

Whereas, Florence Lewis continues to be a positive influence on the lives of others and contributes to her state and country; and

Whereas, she strives to continue her good works of public service and provides inspiration, grace, and love to her family and her community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Florence Lewis for her contributions to her community and country.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 215 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Minority Business Development Agency, a member of the Department of Commerce.

Established on March 5, 1969, the Minority Business Development Agency is the only federal agency specifically created to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in America. With five regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, New York and San Francisco, the Minority Business Development Agency network offers a broad range of services to minority entrepreneurs that are strategically located in areas with large concentrations of minority businesses. As a Representative of an area with a large concentration of minority-owned businesses, and as a business owner myself, I am especially aware of the necessity for the services provided by the Minority Business Development Agency business specialists.

Created in the midst of the Civil Rights Era, the Minority Business Development Agency has participated in many extraordinary events and left an impressionable footprint in its four decades of work. It participated with the International Trade Administration in the first trade mission to Bahrain, and many ITA missions with minority business delegations followed due to the success of this mission. Additionally, the Agency coordinated and supported disaster relief efforts for minority businesses following the devastating aftermath of the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the hurricanes that ravaged many of the coastal communities along the Gulf of Mexico.

With a current focus on access to capital for minority-owned businesses, I look forward to celebrating the future success of this organization. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40 years of prosperity and endeavoring to advance minority businesses in our nation.

HONORING HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Historic Yellow Springs on the 35th Anniversary of its founding as a non-profit organization committed to preserving and enhancing one of the true historical treasures in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of Connie Fraley and other founders of Historic Yellow Springs, the organization purchased the picturesque 145-acre site and 13 historic buildings on the property in 1974.

The property traces its history back to the early 1700's when Lenape Indians first discovered “yellow water” bubbling from the ground. Stone ruins from America's first military hospital, which treated injured soldiers from the Valley Forge encampment during the Revolutionary War, are also part of the property. And the beauty of the property has inspired impressionistic painters and artists from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Country School during the early part of the 20th Century.

Since establishing Historic Yellow Springs as a non-profit organization in 1974, the talented staff and dedicated members of the Board of Directors have done a tremendous job of offering creative programming to teach generation after generation about the history of the property and to provide exceptional educational and artistic opportunities by holding classes in the library, Connie's House and the Barn Studio.

Staff and the Board of Directors will celebrate the 35th Anniversary during Founders Day on Sunday, September 20th and dedicate the recently restored Iron Spring Gazebo in the memory of Founder Connie Fraley.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Historic Yellow Springs as it celebrates this memorable milestone and in expressing sincere appreciation for the exemplary work of the staff and Board of Directors.

COMMEMORATING MRS. MARGARET BROSETT WILLIAMS ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commemorate Mrs. Margaret Brossett Williams on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

On September 28, 1909, Williams was welcomed into this world by John and Vedaline Brossett in Cloutierville, La. She is the last surviving sibling of ten children born to this union.

She married James Houston Williams on October 12, 1928. They were the proud parents of four children: James Dewey Williams, Robert Earl Williams, William Ray Williams and Patsy Jean Williams.