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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TORRES of California).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 11, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NORMA J. TORRES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

AND STILL I RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise on this 9/11, a day that will live in the annals of history eternally, a day when there were more questions than answers, a day when we thought that our country was—and, indeed, what we thought was correct—under assault.

I remember the day because I was at work, and as the judge of a small claims justice court, we were so moved

by what was happening that we paused to sing God Bless America. I remember at least one person sobbing. It was a day when people within that courtroom were faced with uncertainties unlike we had seen before, a day when all of our first responders were challenged.

But allow me, please, for just a moment, to talk and say a few words about those who were there at the site of the Twin Towers.

We could see on television the cloud of dust as it started to emerge and settle, people rushing, bodies covered. It was intuitively obvious to the most casual observer that this was not a place to run to. As a matter of fact, you could see people running away.

But there were those who took their duties and responsibilities seriously, and as others were rushing away, as fear would have us do, they were rushing in. These were the people, many of whom lost their lives trying to save the lives of others. These were the people, many of whom still suffer today because they were bound by duty to do that which most of us would not.

These are the people whom we must never forget. Their lives have been changed and altered forever. But we have a duty and a responsibility here to share our thoughts and our feelings with them, but also to make sure we take care of their health issues.

There is something to be said about this term, “in the line of duty.” Until you have had the opportunity to visit one of the memorial services, it just may not impact you as it can. It will never impact me the way it impacts the family members.

But I want this country to know that those who lost their lives in the line of duty on that day will never be forgotten, and those who served and still serve will always be remembered.

So I take this moment for my personal privilege, and I will lower my head for a moment of silent prayer.

God bless the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the 18th anniversary of September 11, 2001, to reflect on the events of that fateful day and to honor the lives lost and the heroes that united us.

At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 roared over Lower Manhattan and into Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. Shortly after, Flight 175 struck Tower 2.

Our country was under attack. Many of us could never imagine such evil taking place in our own backyard.

The terror did not stop in New York City. The Pentagon, center of our Armed Forces and national defense and our Nation’s Capital, was also a target of evil. Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon at 9:38 a.m. It was a turning point in our history and changed the way we would view the world forever.

The fourth plane hijacked that day was United 93, crashing into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Here in the Capitol, as you exit the north side of the rotunda, a plaque displays the names of the 40 passengers and crew of United 93.

One of those aboard was Flight Attendant Sandra Bradshaw. Sandra had always wanted to be a flight attendant and was living out that dream, traveling and meeting new people.

At 9:30 a.m. on 9/11, she called her husband and told him that United 93 had been hijacked. She said the crew and passengers had decided to try to take back the plane. Their sacrifice saved countless lives, and I can’t help but think they may have saved this very building where we sit today from destruction.

Our country’s fight against terrorism did not happen on a battlefield on the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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other side of the world but over the skies of Pennsylvania, New York, and Virginia by ordinary American citizens.

The courage and bravery of Flight 93 was not the only heroism on display that day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders jumped into action without hesitation. When planes crashed, they ran in. When fires ignited, they ran in. When buildings collapsed, they ran in. Their courage never wavered.

We will never forget the lives lost and must always remember the heroism that was shown. And while we cannot bring our loved ones back, we can honor their memory through acts of service.

To maintain the spirit of unity and compassion that stem from the attacks, every year our country proclaims September 11 as Patriot Day. It is a great way to honor the souls we lost and pay tribute to all who sacrificed their lives.

As President Bush said when he addressed the Nation: "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These attacks shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, September 11, 2001, is one of those days when everyone of age can remember where they were and what they were doing when the first plane hit.

I was a police commander assigned to the Orlando International Airport. It appeared to be a normal day, and then the events unfolded. The planes hit. The towers collapsed. The Pentagon burned. The passengers of Flight 93 mounted their heroic resistance.

It appeared time stood still as the world watched the results and the actions of the hijackers, evil men who set out to attack America, to kill Americans. But they could never have killed the idea of America. You see, that idea belongs to us. It will endure as long as we continue to believe in it, to perfect it, and to make it worth fighting for.

2,977 lives, 343 firefighters, 23 New York police officers, and 37 Port Authority officers—they took much from us that day.

As a mother, I think of the roughly 100 babies who will turn 18 this year having never known their fathers.

Today, I remember the passengers and crew. I remember the first responders who rushed into fire and smoke, dust and rubble in a desperate fight to save whomever they could; who worked for weeks on end, breathing deadly particles, trying to find survivors, or at least identify the dead; heroes who died that day or from illnesses contracted

from the search, rescue, recovery; heroes who died as they lived, in service to others, who believed in service above self. These men and women didn't just save lives; they defined what it means to be a hero for a generation.

On the day of the worst terrorist attack on American soil, our first responders showed us the best of us. I am relieved that, earlier this year, Congress passed lifetime funding for the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund.

Yes, evil men took much from us that day; but the heart and soul of America, the courage and tenacity, the ability to endure and to stand no enemy can take away from us.

The work of caring for those individuals who answered the call that day must go on, just as our work will go on to secure our Nation, to ensure that we will never again suffer the injury we did on that morning.

But today, on September 11, we pause from that work to remember and to honor the victims and to acknowledge the service of 9/11 is not just something to be memorialized, but to be emulated, to put service above self. May we stand united and serve in the people's House with courage, devotion, gallantry, compassion, and grace.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGGLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, 18 years ago, America experienced the worst act of terrorism in its history. Nearly 3,000 people were killed, with many others in emergency services and law enforcement suffering long-lasting health complications, sometimes resulting in death.

September 11, 2001, a day none of us will ever forget, had a deep and lasting impact on the lives of all Americans. I was one of the thousands who answered the call to serve and to hunt down those responsible.

When I woke on that tragic day, I was serving in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho with the 366th Air Expeditionary Wing, 34th Bomb Squadron—the B-1 bombers. I was and am a proud Mountain Home Gunfighter. Our squadron deployed almost immediately as the on-call wing. By early October, I and my brothers and sisters in arms were mission planning the first bombing runs into Afghanistan.

I still remember the morning of September 11. Memories come to my mind as vividly as if they were yesterday: buttoning the buttons on my uniform when my wife yelled at me up the stairs that a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York; a phone call seconds later that I, in no uncertain terms, needed to get my butt into the squadron to brief my commander on

the situation and start loading Conexes; working through the night while the base was in lockdown and much of the country was in a fog; trying to answer questions from my young daughter, wife, and friends about what was happening.

You are seeing my daughter, here, as I came home from deployment.

My memories are not unique, and every American has a different viewpoint on what happened that day. Some lost friends or family, and the tragedy we as a nation felt that day should not be forgotten.

But the impact of those attacks was not limited to that day, and history will write that heroic Americans responded with valor and bravery.

One of the most heinous acts ever committed on American soil did not bring us down but brought us together. In the words of former President George W. Bush: "One of the worst days in America's history saw some of the bravest acts in Americans' history."

Less than 24 hours after the first plane hit the towers in New York, deployment orders came. I still remember that feeling, standing on the tarmac and then watching from the plane as my three daughters, all younger than 10 years old, waved small American flags from down below. I was deployed on Active Duty and would be spending the next weeks planning bombing runs on Afghanistan to respond to these attacks.

Our Armed Forces are asked to make sacrifices; leaving their families is often one of them. But after 9/11, when so many Americans had sacrificed so much more, my brothers and sisters in arms were willing to make that sacrifice. Inspired by the heroism of so many firefighters, first responders, law enforcement, and citizens who answered the call, we knew that America would emerge stronger.

Eighteen years later, we remember the heroes of 9/11, honor their sacrifice, and admire their patriotism. Their memories will last for us forever because we will never forget what they gave us, heroic Americans who answered the call.

I was proud to serve with heroes like General Seve Wilson, Bull, Bullet, Eli, Scar, Jimbo, Rooster, Mongo, IROC, Stainless, Lost, Krenkle, Frengle, Sergeant Lowery, Migo, Psycho, Sassy, Tank, Rachel, Linda Vadnais, Atteberry, and so many more. From Ground Zero in New York to the Pentagon and across the country, American heroes answered the call, and we are forever in their debt.

God bless the United States of America.

□ 1015

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.