

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, how familiar this day is.

As a Member of the United States Congress who was in this building on 9/11, it was a bright and shiny day in New York and Washington, D.C. as we fled this building, saw the billowing smoke in the Pentagon, and knew that the other towers had already fallen by someone telling us something had happened. Hearing rumors that planes were flying into the White House and the State Department, we wondered about the resilience and the freedom of this Nation.

How grateful I am to stand here, 18 years later, to remind Americans and those who were not yet born that that was a day that should be reminding us every day of the greatness of our freedom, the value of our democracy, and the power of our people.

We honor those who fell, those families who still do not know of their missing loved ones, those who went to war, those who have come back.

But most of all, this day is to remind us of the wonderment of the representation of this Nation, the diverse Nation that it is, people from all walks of life, that whatever we have to overcome, whatever divisiveness we may see yesterday, today, or tomorrow, it will never—it will never—undermine the greatness of this country.

I will always, as one who was here, I will always remember and I will never forget. And I honor those whose lives were lost, pray for their families, but celebrate this country as we sang on the east steps, “God Bless America.”

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER THE 11TH IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on the 18th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, Patriot Day, we remember Islamic extremist terrorists hijacked passenger jets to murder nearly 3,000 innocent Americans in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. It is sickening to think of the men and women and children who were slaughtered. Our remembrance promotes the legacy of the people who were mercifully murdered.

I am humbled and inspired by the strength and resilience, just as my colleague, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, of our country when we stand together to remember this mutual tragedy. Today, I remain inspired by Todd Beamer’s heroic immediate response, “Let’s roll.”

This summer, I visited the sites of Islamic extremist attacks in Buenos

Aires, Argentina, of 1994 and in Mumbai, India, of 2008. The brave people of America, Argentina, and India are prepared to stand together to resist further mass murder.

On this day, we honor the lives of those affected by the attack. It is also a day to salute our military who served to protect our freedom and to deny Islamic extremists a safe haven in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE GRANDVIEW BEACH BLUFF COLLAPSE

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize an unimaginable tragedy that occurred in my district last month.

On August 2, three women from the same family died when a coastal bluff at Grandview Beach in Encinitas collapsed on top of them: Julie Davis, Annie Clave, and Elizabeth Charles. They were enjoying a day at the beach with family and friends celebrating Elizabeth’s triumph over breast cancer. Suddenly, all three were lost.

There is a lot that I would like to say about the government’s responsibility to help prevent similar tragedies in the future, but, instead, I want to use this moment to recognize the extraordinary life that all three of these women brought into this world.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Pat Davis, who lost his wife, one of his daughters, and his sister-in-law on that day. Today, Dr. Davis is committed to ensuring that no one else experiences the same kind of loss that he has. He has called for action from local, State, and Federal officials to prevent future bluff collapses, and we stand together in these efforts. He is truly an inspiration.

Please take a moment to think of Julie, Annie, and Elizabeth. May they rest in peace.

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(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of those who lost their lives on 9/11/2001.

Eighteen years ago, the lives of innocent men, women, and children were senselessly taken at the hands of Islamic terrorists under the command of Osama bin Laden. Before day’s end, nearly 3,000 civilians, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and servicemembers would perish in the World Trade Center, on United Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, and in the Pentagon.

Though another year has passed, the pain remains for the families who lost a loved one that fateful day. I pray for all of those people who have lost someone today and pray for them tomorrow, and I pray for those in harm’s way who continue to serve across the globe to ensure that we can live safely in the greatest country in the world: the United States of America.

Never forget, and may God bless America.

In God we trust.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas is home to many gun owners.

Growing up, my family owned guns for hunting. It was part of how we fed our family. Thus, I don’t want to infringe on Second Amendment rights of Americans.

I do, however, want to stop the killing of innocent lives because someone was at risk to themselves or others who bought or accessed a firearm. Too many loopholes allow people to purchase, procure, or access a firearm.

Too many Texans have already died in mass shootings—so this is very personal to me—most recently, of course, in west Texas.

The House has already passed two bills that would prevent mass shootings. Last night, three more bills were marked up and will be ready for a floor vote.

Senate Republicans must allow a vote on gun control legislation. I am tired of people being killed because they won’t act. I end by asking them, Mr. Speaker: What will you do to save lives? What are you afraid of?

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(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, we all remember where we were on September 11, 2001. I, myself, drove my daughter, Caroline, to school on my way to work. She was in the third grade. Driving over the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania on my way to work, I recall thinking what a beautiful day it was.

I watched with coworkers soon after that the horror of the planes hitting the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. A few days later, I was asked to come to Ground Zero to help.

I will never forget the hospitals were all prepared for injured in Manhattan, but there were no injured, or very few. I will never forget the families and the communities that showed resilience and hope. I will never forget the crowds of people cheering the first responders as they traveled toward Ground Zero.