

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to the horrific and incredible attack on the World Trade Center, I traveled to my district to offer assistance and comfort to my constituents in this time of great tragedy. Because of my absence from the House on September 13th, I missed rollcall votes numbered 338, 339 and 340. Had I been present, I would have wholeheartedly voted in favor of the resolution condemning the terrorists attacks against the United States and extending Congress' deepest condolences to the victims of these heinous and cowardly actions; I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2882, the measure that expedites payments of benefits for the public safety officers killed or injured; and H.R. 2884, the legislation that extending tax benefits for the September 11th victims. In addition, I would have voted "yea" on the resolution urging people to fly the U.S. flag.

My thoughts these past days and in the coming weeks are with all those in my beloved city whose lives have been affected by the tragedy in lower Manhattan. I join everyone in our city in praying for our many friends who are missing and injured and for their loved ones.

It is an honor everyday to serve in the House of Representatives as a representative of the greatest city in the world. As soon as I learned of the attacks on the Trade Center, I drove to Manhattan to be with my family and offer assistance to my friends and neighbors. My heart is warmed by the response of our city—the rescue workers, the medical response teams, the orderly evacuation of lower Manhattan by the people who work and live there and the thousands who have gone to blood donor centers.

All New Yorkers will forever remember the bravery of the rescue workers who rushed into lower Manhattan as the Trade Center towers burned. It is apparent that many hundreds of these firefighters, cops and medical personnel may be among the thousands now unaccounted for. We in the city witness countless selfless acts by these heroes on a daily basis. Today we are awed by their response to the tragedy and heartbroken by their fate.

The victims at the Pentagon and of the air hijackings are also in our thoughts and prayers.

We are the most diverse city in the world but today we are united as one. We stand squarely with the President, our Governor and Mayor and pledge to bring the perpetrators of these tremendously cruel acts to justice.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to official functions scheduled in the 15th Congressional District of Michigan, I am unable to return to Washington; therefore I respectfully request a leave of absence from business for

Friday, September 14. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2888, the bill providing emergency supplemental appropriations, Rollcall No. 341.

AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE  
(AVC) INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
PLATFORM AND RESOLUTIONS**HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the American Veterans Committee (AVC). The American Veterans Committee is an outstanding organization of American veterans with ongoing concerns and interest in our foreign policy and international affairs. I submit for the RECORD their International Affairs Platform and Resolutions, as prepared by the American Veterans Committee, International Affairs Commission and adopted by the American Veterans Committee (AVC) National Board at the National Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 26, 1997, with appropriate changes as of August 2001.

AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE (AVC)  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PLATFORM

We, the members of the American Veterans Committee (AVC), believe that in international affairs the objective of the United States of America (US) is the maintenance of peace with justice for all. The world must avoid the holocaust of nuclear war. The restoration of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, the end of the Cold War, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the fall of the Berlin Wall brought much hope of the avoidance of nuclear war—at least among the major powers—in the foreseeable future. Many international problems remain including the threat of international terrorists, and the US has been active—along with the United Nations—in dealing with hostilities in the Middle East and the Balkan States, Central and Southeast Asia, such African states as Somalia, Rwanda and Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo), and in Central America and the Caribbean. The work of the US has aided in establishing and restoring elective governments wherever possible.

Within that framework, US foreign policy, like US domestic policy, must seek always to enhance social justice for and the welfare of the individual, in all classes and without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, or age. Our policies should strive for realization of the world envisioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a world in which all might eat and sleep in safety, live under and vote in an elective government, with realistic hope and opportunity of attaining their reasonable aspirations.

I. THE UNITED NATIONS AND WORLD  
GOVERNANCE

The United Nations (UN), in spite of the recognized areas which require strengthening, continues to be the best hope for peace in the world. American support of the UN must be an essential part of our foreign policy. The authority of the UN must be strengthened in a process in which selected elements of national sovereignty will be progressively transferred, in a manner that will enhance the fundamental freedoms and the well-being of all the peoples of the world.

AVC supports the following principles, reforms and programs for a more effective UN:

1. International law governing disputes and conduct of UN member states, and other states, with one another should be improved, clarified, codified, and *obeyed*. The US and all member states should work within the UN for the development of clear, well understood and respected international law. All member states should accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to interpret and implement international law.

2. Debtor states must pay their UN past and current dues and assessments.

3. The effectiveness of the UN must be improved through better financing, including such mechanisms that will bring in appropriate revenue from developed nations of the world.

4. The UN structures for dispute mediation and conflict prevention and resolution must be strengthened.

5. Further international cooperation for peace and sustainable development should be enhanced.

6. Movement should be made toward a genuine career UN civil service.

7. The influence of civil society at the UN should be strengthened.

8. The integrity and independence of the Office of the Secretary General, as expressed in the UN Charter, are crucial to the strength and effectiveness of the UN. The US should oppose any attempt to weaken the powers of this office. AVC commends the leadership of the present Secretary General, Kofi Annan, in making the organization work more effectively . . . and extends its very best wishes to him on his election to a well deserved second five-year team.

## II. WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION (WVF)

AVC points with pride to and pledges continuing support for the World Veterans Federation (WVF), a worldwide organization of former combatants whose activities are a remarkable example of the kind of private international cooperation on which lasting world peace and justice can be built. AVC thus is proud to have been one of those veterans organizations that helped establish WVF more than a half century ago, and took part in the recognition of the WVF 50th Anniversary, and looks forward to the 24th General Assembly in South Africa in 2003.

## III. THE RIGHTS OF AND RESPECT FOR WOMEN

Since its establishment in 1944, AVC has always had women among its members and leaders. AVC in its Platform is guided by the 1995 Beijing Conference and its "Platform for Action" and the subsequent reaffirmation during the last half decade. In 1995, the UN convened the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. The Conference wrote and adopted the Beijing Declaration and the "Platform for Action," the definitive statement of women's agenda for empowerment world-wide. Since that time, the "Platform for Action" has been the basis for evaluating the international community's progress in meeting the goals set forth in that document. This has been done during the yearly meetings of the UN Committee on the Status of Women since 1995.

A Special session of the UN General Assembly was called in the year 2000, "Beijing + 5," which looked at how far the goals of this Platform have been achieved. That Session reaffirmed the principles and commitments expressed in the "Platform for Action." Furthermore, it set forth a Political Declaration which called upon all nations to take further actions and initiatives to implement the Platform. It also urged a greater role for women in peace processes. Breaking new ground, "Beijing + 5" introduced new focal points of concern for women: HIV/AIDS and racial discrimination. Both of these issues were taken up by the 45th Session of the UN Commission on the status of Women