

fall of the Shah. At that time I can remember Iranians who told other Iranians to not make the comments because we were obviously American in our look. I want to thank those people that helped thousands of us to not have the harassment. I have been in those shoes, in a sense, and we have to just I think as Americans, Mr. Speaker, put ourselves in the shoes of these Americans of Arab descent, and I think this message will go out. I hope the media also, I say to the gentleman, keep hammering this in, that our country was founded on fairness and freedom that has been so eloquently expressed here tonight.

I thank the gentleman for doing something good and right for the people of this country.

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Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for adding to what I think has been a very extraordinary dialogue here this evening on something that is very fundamental to what we are about as a country, and that is the words that not only the gentleman shared with us here this evening, but the words of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCNICH) and others who referred to the notion of tolerance, justice, liberty, union, and peace. These are all ideals that we cherish deeply in our Nation.

I am so proud of the folks who came here this evening to speak and to make that differentiation that is so important to so many millions of Americans today who have lived in fear as a result of the actions that have been taken against their brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, let me just end with this. The Prophet Mohammed has taught that God does not judge according to our bodies or appearances, but he looks into our hearts, he scans our hearts, and looks into our deeds.

The holy Qu'ran teaches "Oh, Man-kind, we created you from a single soul, male and female, and made you peoples and tribes so that you may come to know one another," so that we may come to know one another.

As leaders and as Members of Congress, if we could take the message that we articulated so well this evening and spread that throughout our country over these next days and weeks and months, I think we will have done a good service. When the world watched our national prayer service earlier today, as many alluded to in their speeches on the floor today, they heard the healing words of many faiths: a Muslim Iman, a Jewish rabbi, and Christian clergy, Mr. Speaker.

These Americans, like the rest of the world, all worship God in their own way, but the common faith they share, what we have witnessed in the torrent of goodness this week, the neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers, is that hate can never conquer our Nation's spirit. That is the common faith that they share, that hate can never conquer our Nation's spirit.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, this week, thousands of people in New York and Washington lost their lives in a brutal assault on our Nation that was a calculated strike at the heart of our freedom and national unity. Millions of Arab Americans, South Asian Americans and American Muslims around the country have shared our sorrow and outrage at Tuesday's terrorist attacks. They have donated their blood, their money, their food and their time to the rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Now these same individuals who have mourned and prayed with us have come under suspicion by their neighbors and the threat of additional violence in the form of hate crimes at their homes, schools, community centers and mosques. As a part of our effort to protect America from violence, we must unequivocally condemn the attacks against these groups and pledge to protect their civil rights and civil liberties.

My district is home to one of the largest Arab and Muslim communities in the country. It is vital that we distinguish the beliefs of these Americans from the perpetrators of Tuesday's violence, and recognize that American Muslims share our values and contribute significantly to our communities. If we fail to do so, then we will have seriously undermined freedom—the same principle we find ourselves vigorously defending in the wake of Tuesday's attacks.

All Members should stand to condemn any acts of bigotry, violence or discrimination against Arab Americans, South Asians and American Muslims and call upon Americans of every faith and heritage to stand together in this time of national crisis. We must pledge that in our pursuit of national security government agencies will work to avoid activities that encroach upon the civil rights and civil liberties of citizens or legal residents of the United States.

As we should have learned from the shameful history of internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, the civil rights and civil liberties of discrete groups of minorities should be specially considered during times of domestic and international turmoil. Our sense of community with fellow Americans of Arab and South Asian descent and those of the Muslim faith should not be counted as another casualty of Tuesday's senseless violence.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their time this evening, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 227

Whereas all Americans are united in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the terrorists who planned and carried out the attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, and in pursuing all those responsible for these attacks and their sponsors until they are brought to justice and punished;

Whereas the Arab-American, South Asian-American, and American Muslim communities are a vital part of the Nation;

Whereas on September 12, 2001, in a mass for the Nation and the victims of the ter-

rorist hijackings and attacks, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the Archbishop of Washington, D.C., reminded all Americans in prayer that "we must seek the guilty and not strike out against the innocent or we become like them who are without moral guidance or direction";

Whereas the heads of State of several Arab and predominantly Muslim countries have condemned the terrorist attacks on the United States and the senseless loss of innocent lives; and

Whereas vengeful threats and incidents of violence directed at law-abiding, patriotic Americans of Arab or South Asian descent, particularly the Sikh community, and adherents of the Islamic faith have already occurred: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) declares that in the quest to identify, bring to justice, and punish the perpetrators and sponsors of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, that the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans, including Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia, should be protected; and

(2) condemns any acts of violence or discrimination against any Americans, including Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 days within which to revise and extend and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res 227.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

AMENDING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT TO PROVIDE PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR ADMISSION OF "S" VISA NON-IMMIGRANTS

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1424) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for the admission of "S" visa non-immigrants, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) for a comment on the bill.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this issue comes before us at a very appropriate time. It was about 2 days ago, maybe 3 days ago now considering the time is after midnight, authority ran out for our government, through the Attorney General, to be able to bring in alien witnesses for cases involving terrorists, of