the Saginaw Intermediate District have championed cost-effective and efficient communications among local school districts and sought new and better methods to achieve that goal. To that end, they developed the Saginet Fiber Optic Network at the Transitions Center. This telecommunications network connects local districts with the Intermediate District. Establishing such cost-saving measures has freed valuable local school funds for other needs, giving students and teachers the money for assets they desperately needed.

The facility also includes the Instructional Services Department and Teacher Training Center, which together help local school districts and educators retain and improve proficiency in the development and implementation of curriculum and leads the way in many areas of professional training.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing appreciation to Superintendent Lane, Board members and staff of the Saginaw Intermediate School District for their vision and dedication to the educational needs of the entire region. I have faith that their work will serve as a beacon for others and that they will continue to seek, find and implement many more methods for the betterment of schools, teachers and students everywhere.

AUTHORIZING USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today we have the opportunity to come together, with one voice, to stand up for what this great country means to all Americans. We owe it to the victims of Tuesday's attack; to those who continue to sacrifice in response to that attack; to those in our Armed Forces who we call on to defend us; to all Americans who dearly love their country; and to all future generations of Americans.

I urge my colleagues to make the vote on this resolution a symbol of a unified voice of freedom. May this vote prove to the entire world that the United States of America—as one nation, under God—will continue to be a beacon of freedom, hope, and dreams.

Above all, may all Americans take heart as their federal government moves forward, as a collective body, to protect their precious freedom. The use of force is justified to eliminate this menace of terrorism, and America will prevail.

AUTHORIZING USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my strong, unconditional support for the congressional authorization that will enable our Nation to act swiftly and firmly against those responsible for unleashing the deadliest attack on our Nation in its history. The terrorists' heinous acts took thousands of innocent lives and caused unprecedented physical destruction. But they have not succeeded in tearing us down or leaving us weak.

Out of sorrow has come a soaring of the American spirit; out of destruction has come a restoration of community and political unity; and yes, out of anger, has come a steely determination to hunt down these terrorists and all their enablers, and to ensure that they pay a heavy price for these acts.

We did not seek conflict; terrorists have declared war upon the United States. But we will respond forcefully when our freedoms are threatened and our way of life is under attack. We must take action against our enemies, on our own terms, at a time of our choosing, with moral clarity and unity of purpose. We must deter future aggressors. This resolution will provide the President with the full authority to do just that, and we should join in unanimous support of it.

This resolution is not just authorization for a near-term strike against the perpetrators of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. It is a declaration of war against all terrorists now threatening our Nation, and those who support them. While Congress will continue to consult with the Administration as we progress with this campaign, and play our rightful role if necessary to expand our operations, make no mistake that we will support the President in his quest to eliminate these threats to our society.

I have fought in a conflict that many in this Nation actively opposed, and know how devastating domestic opposition can be to the conduct of war. That should never happen again. Now more than ever, when we are asking our troops to defend our own soil from further attack, we must have solidarity and the commitment of the American people that we will not only provide critical moral support to our President and our troops, but that we will follow through with the financial resources they need to do the job.

This campaign demands that we relook our federal spending priorities, and our military needs. We must provide our troops with the current generation assets they need to do their job, and jump start maintenance of equipment that has been ignored for so long. But we must also modernize our forces to ensure their superiority in the 21st century. Perhaps we will revise our focus, reshape our priorities for evolving forms of warfare. But we will not ignore the military's needs, and our national security will be restored as the top national priority. We will make assets available to protect our homeland, and we will ensure our troops are equipped to do their job and prevail in their mission—now and well into the future.

As President Bush has said, this battle will take time and resolve. But with the continued support of all Americans, we will win, no matter how long it takes. I urge all my colleagues to join in unanimous support of this Nation, our President and our military in this war by voting for this resolution authorizing use of force against the perpetrators of terrorism worldwide.

PRESERVING VIABILITY OF UNITED STATES AIR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill introduced by my colleague Mr. OBERSTAR.

All week, my constituents in the U.S. Virgin Islands have been calling and asking for some kind of a lifeline for our tourism industry.

Not only is the travel and tourism industry the largest or second largest industry worldwide, but also it is responsible for 70 percent of the economy of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker we have just struggled to bring back our industry after several major hurricanes. We are almost there, and now this!

But this goes beyond just my district, and the people there who depend on tourism, and thus airline travel for their jobs, and to provide for their families. If the airline industry falls, we can see clearly that it would domino all through the national economy.

This bill providing financial support, and a line of credit is critical to this industry, to our economy and to my and many other districts.

We have come through an extraordinary week, and we need to take extraordinary action to secure the future of our nation.

Like many of my other colleagues, I do not support using the social security trust fund, but there is funding in the recently passed tax cut. This is more important and I would respectfully suggest that we use funds set aside for this unnecessary measure to support and sustain our airlines, tourism and the people who depend on them.

A TRIBUTE TO EVAN CHRISTIAN BROWNELL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students, Evan Christian Brownell. On October 7, 2001, the Boy Scouts of Troop 292 in Brentwood will recognize Evan's achievements by giving him the Eagle Scout honor.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.