

can focus on operating trains more efficiently while the DOT and states worry about the improvement of passenger rail infrastructure. Therefore, if it demonstrates its ability to seriously compete for operation of new high speed corridors, Amtrak will actually benefit under RIDE-21.

MORE BANG FOR THE BUCK

RIDE-21 is fiscally responsible. The \$71 billion investment in infrastructure through RIDE-21 will cost the federal government about \$6 billion. The other bills, which provide for only a \$12 billion investment, will cost the treasury about \$7.4 billion, according to CBO. Any taxpayer can tell that RIDE-21 is a better value.

Finally, RIDE-21 creates jobs. \$71 billion to construct high-speed passenger rail infrastructure means good jobs for hard-working Americans.

I encourage Members to study RIDE-21 carefully and to become cosponsors of this bill.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA TASK  
FORCE 7

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the California Task Force 7, Sacramento Urban Search and Rescue Unit. On September 11, 2001, just hours after the murderous attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, sixty-four members of the Sacramento Urban Search and Rescue Team departed for New York City to assist with the recovery efforts. As their family and friends gather to welcome them home, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of America's finest search and rescue teams.

The California Task Force 7, Sacramento Urban Search and Rescue Team, is comprised of members from Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Sacramento Fire Department, West Sacramento Fire, and El Dorado County Fire Protection District.

The Sacramento Urban Search and Rescue Unit is considered a multi-hazard discipline, as it may be needed for a variety of emergencies or disasters, including earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, storms, tornadoes, floods, dam failures, technological accidents, terrorist activities, and hazardous material releases.

The California Task Force 7 has always been a leader in supporting rescue efforts throughout the United States. The Unit was one of the first Urban Search and Rescue teams mobilized after the Oklahoma City bombing, arriving thirteen hours after the blast. The Unit also played an instrumental role in the rescue and relief efforts in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics bombing, the 1996 Yosemite Rock Slide, and the 1996/1997 California Floods.

The Sacramento Search and Rescue Unit is comprised of sixty-four highly qualified and dedicated specialists divided into four groups: Search, Rescue, Technical, and Medical. Team members include specialists in structural engineering, hazardous materials, heavy rigging, search and rescue, canine response, logistics, and medical response, which includes four medical specialists and two physicians. By design, there are two personnel as-

signed to each position for the rotation and relief. This allows for round-the-clock task force operations. A comprehensive equipment cache totaling 60,000 pounds supports the task force.

For ten days, the members of the California Task Force 7 worked tirelessly and selflessly in search of survivors in the rubble of the World Trade Center towers in New York City. These outstanding search and rescue specialists courageously answered our nation's call for their assistance and compassion during this hour of need. Their bravery, valor, and patriotism in the face of such tragic events is inspiring to all Sacramentans and to all Americans, and deserves our most heartfelt gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, as the exceptional people of the Sacramento Urban Search and Rescue Unit return home, we are honored to pay tribute to some of our area's most heroic and dedicated citizens. The California Task Force 7 serves as an invaluable resource to the Sacramento Region, the State of California, and the United States of America. We ask all of our colleagues to join us in thanking the men and women of the Sacramento Urban Search and Rescue Unit for their fearless dedication and service to our country during this national tragedy.

EDITORIAL IN THE JEFFERSON  
CITY NEWS TRIBUNE

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share with the Members of the House the excellent editorial in the Jefferson City News Tribune following Tuesday's horrific events. The fine statement is set forth as follows:

AMERICANS UNDER ATTACK

Abject honor does not begin to describe the reaction to this morning's attack on New York City and Washington, D.C.

Much remains unknown.

What is certain, however, is that the attack was an act of war on American people on American soil.

At this juncture, we know that shortly before 9 a.m. EDT today an American Airlines jet hijacked after take-off from Boston, struck one of the twin towers at the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan.

Within minutes, a second airplane, also believed hijacked from American Airlines, struck the trade center's second tower.

Both towers caught fire and subsequently collapsed in a massive implosion of burning debris.

Later this morning a commercial jetliner, also believed to have been hijacked, crashed into the Pentagon in Washington D.C. That was followed by a car bomb exploding outside the State Department.

In addition, another jetliner, possibly hijacked from United Airlines, crashed outside Pittsburgh, PA.

The death toll, although yet unknown, will be staggering. The World Trade Center itself houses an estimated 50,000 employees, exceeding the population of Jefferson City.

Passengers on the hijacked jet and other people on the ground also have perished. In reaction, all flights in the nation have been cancelled, key buildings have been evacuated and the military has been placed on alert.

The miscreants, presumably terrorists, who perpetrated these malevolent attacks also remain unknown.

They must be identified, and they and their ilk must be exterminated like the vermin they have shown themselves to be.

America has been attacked mercilessly. To serve notice that this must never happen again, our response must be equally merciless.

TRIBUTE TO TIM MCCALLION

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to my friend, Tim McCallion, who will be inducted into the Independent Telephone Pioneer Association's Hall of Fame on September 29, 2001 in recognition of his distinguished career with GTE.

Mr. McCallion is an individual of great distinction, and we join with his colleagues, family and friends in honoring his remarkable achievements in the telecommunications industry and his service to his community.

Tim's long career with Verizon, formerly GTE, began in 1976 when he joined the accounting department in Erie, Pennsylvania, as he was finishing up his MBA at Gannon University. Over the next two decades, Tim's career with GTE took him all around the country from Pennsylvania, to Indiana, Connecticut, Hawaii and finally to California.

Though Tim's career began in the accounting field, he quickly moved into public policy. Tim currently serves as the Pacific Regional President responsible for Regulatory, Government Affairs, Public Affairs and corporate interests in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Tim's colleagues refer to him as the "go to guy." A man who applies initiative and creativity to his service, Tim never fails to take on daunting tasks. When the ITPA needed to have their books audited, and incredibly demanding job with Verizon, Tim volunteered. His colleagues remark that in the fast paced and ever changing telecommunications market it is nice to know that there are people like Tim willing to help.

I personally know this to be true. As a member of the California State Assembly and Senate, I worked closely with Tim over the years on several pieces of telecommunications legislation. I could always count on Tim for his tenacity and his expertise in telecom regulation and policy. He worked to spearhead telecom legislation in California that greatly benefited my constituents and the rest of the state. It was always a pleasure and an honor to work with Tim.

Tim has continued to be a valued informational resource to me here in Congress. America leads the world in the Telecommunications Revolution, but there are still many goals to accomplish. I salute Verizon for its efforts to end the Digital Divide. Verizon has been a key supporter of HR 1542, the Tauzin-Dingell Bill, which will stimulate competition in the high speed internet market, giving consumers more choices, lower prices and more services. Tim's hard work supporting this important legislation has been critical in the two-year struggle that