

of the compassion and energy that makes this country great.

To the people of the Community Christian Church, thank you for all your good works over the last three decades; and may God grant you the opportunity to continue doing His work for many years into the future.

MEMORIALIZING FALLEN
FIREFIGHTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Joint Resolution 42, the "Fallen Firefighters Act of 2001." As the author of the bill I am proud to be able to help honor our firefighters. This legislation serves as a remembrance to the heroic men and women who have died in the line of duty by requiring the American flag on all federal buildings be lowered to half-staff one day each year on the observance of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. This year's service will be held this Sunday, October 7 in Emmitsburg, MD, at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. President and Mrs. Bush are scheduled to attend the ceremony.

This year's service will be especially emotional in the wake of the terrorist attack on America where hundreds of brave men and women gave their lives to save those of thousands of strangers. I have personally visited the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and continue to be amazed by the work these men and women continue to do on a daily basis—and the work they have done that has saved thousands upon thousands of lives. I continue to be touched as I attend numerous town ceremonies in the wake of the tragedy by the support both for firefighters in our communities and their unwavering dedication to their communities, fellow firefighters, and our country.

Firefighters provide one of the most valuable services imaginable to this country—that of saving lives and safeguarding our precious lands. With integrity, firefighters preserve the safety in the communities they serve with tireless dedication and commitment. These heroes need to be recognized and thanked by all Americans, not just in the wake of this horrible tragedy but to the nearly 1.2 million men and women serve our country as fire and emergency services personnel on a daily basis. Firefighters are our first line of defense in both natural and man made disasters walking into burning buildings and battling forest fires with determination and defiance.

Approximately one-third of our nation's finest suffer debilitating injuries each year making it one of the most dangerous jobs in America. Furthermore, approximately 100 men and women die in the line of duty every year—many are volunteers. Since 1981, every State in America, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, has lost firefighters serving in the line of duty. Since 1981, the names of 2,077 fallen fire heroes have been added to the Roll of Honor. Ninety-six men and women who lost their lives in 2000 will be honored in October. This year, the name of Arnold Blankenship, Jr., of Greenwood, DE, will be placed on the 2000 memorial plaque. Sadly,

Mr. Blankenship is not the first firefighter in Delaware to be memorialized. He will join H. Thomas Tucker, James Goode, Jr., W. Jack Northam, and Prince A. Mousley, Jr.

Lowering the flag on federal buildings one day a year will remind all Americans of the patriotic service and dedicated efforts of our fire and emergency services personnel. In October 2002, the over 300 firefighters who lost their lives in the attack on America will also be honored at the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service, along with 81 of their colleagues who also died in the line of duty during 2001, and sadly that number may grow by the end of the year. It is important for this legislation to be in place to honor all these heroic men and women who have served our communities and our Nation. These men and women work tirelessly to protect and preserve the lives and property of their fellow citizens. Through this legislation, we can show our support and respect for America's fire heroes and those who carry on the noble tradition of service.

We must always remember the contributions of all of our public safety officers. In 1962, Congress passed a joint resolution honoring America's police officers who died in the line of duty in recognition of their dedicated service to their communities and amended it in 1994 to lower the flag to half staff in memorial. Today, we take the first step in bestowing the same respect on the 1.2 million fire and emergency services personnel who also serve as public safety officers. I would like to thank all the members who sponsored this legislation and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and recognize these heroic men and women.

AIRLINE WORKER RELIEF

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I stand with my congressional colleagues in the House and in the Senate in my support of relief for the thousands of employees that have been or soon will be laid off in the wake of the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11. And, perhaps most importantly, I want to re-emphasize the immediate need for congressional action.

As this body deliberates the form and size of a worker relief package, many working men and women are now searching for new jobs. They are beginning the application process for unemployment benefits. Quite frankly, they are wondering how they are going to buy their groceries, make their house payment, and pay for transportation. All of this, when our economy is at a downturn.

The United States is facing a crisis, and it is not merely a security crisis. There is a visible, pressing need for worker relief. Just as this body acted swiftly to address the needs of the airline industry, we should also move quickly to enact assistance for America's displaced workers.

I would also urge my colleagues to remember all workers that have been displaced in recent weeks. The dramatic decrease in travel and tourism affects not only those workers employed by the airline industry. No. Working

men and women in the hospitality industry are facing massive layoffs. The same is true for restaurant workers and thousands of service sector employees. Close to 3 million jobs could be lost.

In recent years, the safety net for these workers has begun to unravel. Passing a relief package for workers displaced by the tragic events of September 11 will give us the opportunity to begin to weave the safety net back together. I will do all that I can to ensure our safety net regains its strength now and maintains its strength in the future. I sincerely hope that my congressional colleagues and the President will do the same.

DON KRZYSIAK: A POLKA PRINCE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Krzysiak of Bay City, Michigan, for his induction into the Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Fame and for his many years of celebrating Polish heritage in a town where nearly everyone seems to claim Polish ancestry or at least wishes they could.

Bay City's Polish community is one of the proudest in Michigan, bringing with it a love for good food, good spirits, fellowship, dance and the traditions of a footstomping, lively musical style known as the polka.

When Don and his wife, Lois, opened Krzysiak's House Restaurant in 1979, they created a touchstone for all things Polish for people near and far. From the pacskis to the polka, Don and Lois brought Old World Polish charm to Bay City in the same melting pot style that joined classical European music with folk music to form a uniquely American brand of polka during the Depression Era in the United States.

Over the years, Don has been an active promoter of both Polish heritage and the polka. He has been instrumental in organizing many events, including the Bay Area Polish Tall Ships Festival, a presentation of the Magnificent Mazowsze song and dance ensemble, Polish Cabarets and traditional Polish Wigilia celebrations. He is perhaps most noted for putting together an event on Fat Tuesday in 1999 billed as the "Polka Paczki Party at Krzysiak's House Restaurant," which was covered live by a local television station and received front page coverage from the Bay City Times. This event is now described in mythic proportions in the local Polish community and throughout the state.

The reasons for Don's induction into the Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Fame, however, go beyond his legendary abilities as a restaurateur and promoter of Polish heritage. He also has a keen ear for the polka and is an expert polka music listener. Don also recently learned to play the stump fiddle and he performs at hospitals, nursing homes, and senior sites throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Don Krzysiak on achieving the Michigan Polka Music industry's highest honor and for his many contributions in safeguarding all aspects of Polish heritage for generations to come. I am confident that Don will continue to warm Polish hearts and satisfy the