

The isolation also gives residents a unique vision of the city—literally, in some ways. As a kid looking out the window from the top floor of my house, I could watch the twin towers of the World Trade Center rise in the distance as they were constructed during the '60s and early '70s. An awesome sight—but that was New York City. We were in Rockaway.

People who visit Rockaway from “the city” are known as DFD—Down for the Day. Generally, you have to keep your eyes on DFDs because they often can't swim, and they don't always take all their garbage with them when leaving the beach.

Rockaway teenagers often work as Parks Department employees cleaning the beach, or they learn how to save others as lifeguards. Many continue in the rescue tradition by becoming cops and firefighters. The common experiences they have as youngsters help form lifetime friendships.

Another intense experience that helps bind the good folks of Rockaway together always has been the roar of the planes on the flight path from Kennedy Airport. When the Concorde started flying in the 1970s, teachers at local schools had to stop classes for a minute or two whenever it passed over us because it rattled windows and made lessons inaudible.

Many of my friends who heard the crash Monday said at first they thought the sound was merely from the Concorde, which recently resumed flights.

It ripped my heart apart when I realized that St. Francis de Sales Church will be holding more funerals and memorials for its neighbors. The parish has suffered incredible torment lately because so many of its members were killed in the terrorist attack on the WTC.

As the smoldering embers turn to ashes and the smell of jet fuel is wafted away by the salty ocean air, I pray that Rockaway will heal from this latest tragedy. While these days I may technically be a DFD, I still have sand in my shoes.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) for his leadership and for sponsoring this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, reserving my right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) in expressing our sense of loss and pain both to the community and the Rockaways, as well as the community in the Dominican areas and throughout the City of New York.

It is somewhat even sadder to know that a community that lost so many people, then on another day saw so many people being lost right there in their community. It is the kind of thing that you cannot explain; and you do not try to ask why they happen, but they did happen.

The stories that are coming out about people who were on that flight, the stories of the American immigration and the immigration to this country. So many stories of people who came here, especially from the Dominican Republic to find a new world, a new life. And so many were involved in doing just that and were going back for whatever reason.

Interestingly enough, interestingly enough, I learned something after this

tragedy that I did not know before. And that was that a lot of folks were going back to celebrate Thanksgiving in the Dominican Republic. One would ask, why celebrate Thanksgiving in the Dominican Republic; it is an American celebration. Well, these are families who have been here so long and traveling back and forth to the point where that celebration has now become part of many, if not all, communities in the Dominican Republic.

So the same way that this weekend and this week we will be traveling to be near loved ones, some folks come from the Dominican Republic to celebrate Thanksgiving in New York and the United States, and some go back to the Dominican Republic to celebrate Thanksgiving with all of that which is ours, the trimmings of the turkey and the celebration with a little touch of rice and beans and fried bananas that make who we are as a country, that we take every tradition and add our personal touch to it.

Then there are the other stories of, for instance, the woman in my district who started to go to beauty culture school in the Dominican Republic at the age of 12. Came to the United States and saved all of her tips, saved all of her tips for 6, 7, 8 years with the intent some day of owning her own place. And on 149th Street in the Bronx, she owned her own place just 6 months ago. She was going back to her folks to tell them the story of the success she had found in this new land of opportunity and she never made it.

We also have the stories about people who came here, the man who came here and became a citizen and was going home to pick up children who now because of his citizenship could enter into the country and he was lost. And so when we honor the memories of these folks, I think we have to realize that this is a classic American story of people who came here, of people who came here to make a better life for themselves, and who either did or are in the process of doing it.

In closing, let me say as I started to say to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) before, that there is something so dramatic and yet so sad and yet so strong about the fact that in that community in the Rockaways, which also has the tradition of immigrants coming here to succeed, they became the final place for the death of so many of these people. And these communities, who probably on a daily basis had perhaps very little in common at times, certainly maybe in the homeownership style or somewhat culturally; yet, at the end of it all, the suffering of 60, 70 families in that community through the World Trade Center and then the suffering of 260 through this airplane.

I am glad this resolution is up. We join today in expressing our sympathy to all these families, and we just hope that we can now go on and help the survivors to face this tragedy.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 272

Whereas American Airlines Flight 587 en route from John F. Kennedy Airport in Queens County, New York, to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, crashed on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens County, New York, on November 12, 2001;

Whereas the crash resulted in a tragic loss of life estimated at 265 individuals, including passengers, crew members, and people on the ground;

Whereas New York City has strong cultural, familial, and historic ties to the Dominican Republic;

Whereas many of the passengers of American Airlines Flight 587 were of Dominican origin and resided in the Washington Heights community, a vibrant neighborhood which is an integral part of our national cultural mosaic;

Whereas the Rockaway community has already suffered greatly as a result of the attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, as home to the highest concentration of firefighters in New York City, many of whom lost their lives at the World Trade Center;

Whereas many Rockaway residents ignored the risks and rushed to the site of the plane crash in an effort to help;

Whereas the people of the Rockaway community have served as an inspiration through their resilience in the face of adversity and their faith in and practice of community; and

Whereas the professional emergency personnel on the ground performed valiantly limiting the devastation of this tragedy: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) sends its heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens County, New York, on November 12, 2001;

(2) sends its sympathies to the people of the Dominican Republic and to the Dominican community in New York City;

(3) sends its sympathies to the people of the Rockaway community;

(4) commends the heroic actions of the rescue workers, volunteers, and State and local officials who responded to this tragic event with courage, determination, and skill; and

(5) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the Dominican Republic.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H. Con. Res. 272 and H.R. 3093, the matters just considered by the House.

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

There was no objection.