

I am especially dismayed that the resolution came within one vote of being rejected by the House. Just last summer, it passed by a landslide. The obvious explanation for this dramatic change is the attacks of September 11th. Ironically, the previous bill extending section 245(i) was scheduled to be voted on for enactment on the day of the attacks. Six months later, it struggled to make it out of the House.

Some would argue that it is these attacks, committed by people from countries other than our own that have changed our viewpoints on immigrants. This is an overly simplistic explanation. While it is certainly expected that these attacks would make us more acutely aware of the enemies we face, we cannot blame the terrorists that carried out these horrific attacks for the anti-immigrant sentiment that was articulated in this chamber during the debate on this resolution. We are the ones responsible for this attitude.

We can never undo what was done against us and we can never fully understand the evil that lurked in the hearts of these men. But we can control what impact they have upon our lives. We should not allow fear to become the guiding principle, but should stand strong for the principles our country are founded on. Punishing our hard working, committed, and American, in every sense of the word, immigrant community is not the answer.

We are headed in the right direction with H. Res. 365, but it is only a step. There is much more work to be done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VERA
PÉREZ (1933–2002)

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Vera Pérez. Vera was born in 1933 in Los Angeles and raised by Pete Acosta, a single father. She and her sister, Natalia, spent much of their formative years in boarding schools and boarding houses, only really able to spend Sundays with their father.

As a young woman, Vera worked in a factory. In the 1970s she completed the CETA training program and began working at the Older Residents Medical Screening Program (ORMSP) as a receptionist. ORMSP is a non-profit healthcare company that provides free medical screening for senior citizens in the East side of Los Angeles. Through her 18 years at ORMSP, Vera advanced from receptionist to data specialist and eventually was running the program when she retired in 1995.

Vera and her husband, Felipe, had five children: Diana, Lisa, Yvette, Phillip and John; and four grandchildren. In addition, Vera had an active hand in raising her four nephews and nieces, including Antonio Villaraigosa, who went on to be the Speaker of the California State Assembly.

Vera Pérez died on March 5, 2002. She will be dearly missed by her loving family and friends.

PLANET MARS

HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, We are better prepared to go to the planet Mars today than to the Moon in 1961. The reasons to go are compelling and the goal is within reach.

Like the Moon Race, exploring Mars will have benefits here on Earth, revitalizing our economy and society like no other challenge. America's wealth today testifies to space exploration's past return-on-investment in communications, computers, and advanced materials. Mars exploration will bring to all of us a positive and dynamic vision of the future—a goal to achieve, a dream to make real.

As the planet most like Earth, Mars should be the next focus of space exploration. We have sent many robots to explore Mars for us, but their abilities are limited. It's time to go there ourselves.

We have the means to explore and settle Mars in the near-term on only a fraction of NASA's current budget, but work is needed to refine key technologies like space suits and life support systems. The targeted investment of a modest 1% of NASA's annual budget can achieve these advances. Adequate funds would remain for NASA's other priorities today, while we prepare for the day in the very near future when Americans again walk on another world.

The time to plan our next giant leap is now. It's our future, let's make it happen.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING, SALUTING AND COMMENDING FIREFIGHTER LEON SMITH, JR.—LADDER NUMBER 118

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as a Tribute to Firefighter Leon Smith, Jr. of Ladder Number 118, a member of the Vulcan's Society and one of the fallen heroes of September 11th, I would like to insert the following proclamation into the RECORD:

Whereas, September 11, 2001 was a day of horror and tragedy that will forever live in the memory of Americans, and;

Whereas, more than 3,000 people from many occupations, nationalities, ethnic groups, religions and creeds were brutally murdered by terrorists, and;

Whereas, members of the New York City Fire Department, New York City Police Department, Port Authority and other Public Safety Personnel, through their valiant, courageous and heroic efforts saved the lives of thousands under unprecedented destructive circumstances, and;

Whereas, more than 300 New York City Firefighters lost their lives in the effort to save others, and;

Whereas, Congressman Major R. Owens and the people of the 11th Congressional District salute the bravery and dedication of all who gave their full measure of devotion, and;

Whereas, we deem it appropriate to highlight the courage and valor of individuals and groups in a variety of forms and ceremonies: Now therefore be it

Resolved: That on this 10th Day of March, Two Thousand and Two, Congressman Major R. Owens, and representatives of the people of the 11th Congressional District, pause to salute the sacrifices of these honored men, and offer their heartfelt condolences to families of these African American Firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

That the text of this resolution shall be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

Given by my hand and seal this 10th day of March, Two Thousand and Two in the Year of our Lord.

CONGRESSMAN RANDY FORBES
COMMENDING THE GIRL SCOUTS
OF THE U.S.A. ON THEIR 90TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. on their 90th Anniversary. The Girl Scouts are a quintessential American institution that has exported its successful strategy to 140 countries, and a worldwide family of 8.5 million girls. The Girls Scouts represent the largest voluntary organization for girls in the world.

Juliette Gordon Low, who believed that all girls should have the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually, formed the Girl Scouts this week in 1912. Congress first chartered the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. on March 16, 1950. Since that time, the Girl Scouts have grown to over 3.8 million members throughout America.

The Girl Scouts have held true to their mission to help all girls grow strong and develop their full potential. The Girl Scout Promise compels each young Girl Scout to be their best by pledging: "On my honor, I will try; To serve God and my country, To help people at all times, And top live by the Girl Scout Law."

Now more than ever, the young women of America needs the Girl Scout's positive message and leadership. The Girl Scouts provide an environment where girls are challenged and guided to become capable, self-reliant, ethical women who will make a difference.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I commend the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. on their 90th Anniversary and their invaluable contributions to the upbringing of America's young women. I congratulate the Girl Scouts and thank all those who have contributed their time, energy, and love in making this organization an American success story.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING, SALUTING AND COMMENDING FIREFIGHTER KARL JOSEPH-ENGINE NO. 207

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as a Tribute to Firefighter Karl Joseph of Engine Number 207, a member of the Vulcan's Society and one of

the fallen heroes of September 11th, I would like to insert the following proclamation into the record:

Whereas, September 11, 2001 was a day of horror and tragedy that will forever live in the memory Americans, and;

Whereas, more than 3,000 people from many occupations, nationalities, ethnic groups, religions creeds were brutally murdered by terrorists, and;

Whereas, members of the New York City Fire Department, New York City Police Department, Port Authority and other Public Safety Personnel, through their valiant, courageous and heroic efforts saved the lives of thousands under unprecedented destructive circumstances; and

Whereas, more than 300 New York City Firefighters lost their lives in the effort to save others, and

Whereas, Congressman Major R. Owens and the people of the 11th Congressional District salute the bravery and dedication of all who gave their full measure of devotion, and;

Whereas, We deem it appropriate to highlight the courage and valor of individuals and groups in variety of forms and ceremonies: Now therefore be it

Resolved: That on this 10th Day of March, Two Thousand and Two, Congressman Major R. Owens, and representatives of the people of the 11th Congressional District, pause to salute the sacrifices of these honored men, and to offer their heartfelt condolences to families of these African American Firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

That the text of this resolution shall be placed in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives.

Given by my hand and seal this 10th day of March, Two Thousand and Two in the Year of our Lord.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTER RITA NOWATZKI OF THE NEW YORK FOUNDING HOSPITAL

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Rita Nowatzki for her distinguished service to the children and families of New York City. A Sister of Charity for over fifty years, Sister Nowatzki has dedicated herself to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. As she enters her retirement, she remains unwavering in her commitment to speak for those who are voiceless and remind us all of our responsibility to aid the poorest members of our community.

In 1990, Sister Nowatzki joined the New York Founding Hospital as its public advocate. In the years since, Sister Nowatzki has proven her reputation as an innovative administrator and masterful advocate. She produced "The Foundling," the first book documenting the Hospital's 137-year history of aiding orphans, poor families and children. She raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the United Way, saved crucial family services in the New York City budget, and lit up the Empire State Building every April to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention month. As an ardent advocate for our children's well-being, Sister Nowatzki has worked at the city and state level to craft policies and programs that will assist the most vulnerable members of our

community. One major component of the work of Sister Nowatzki is her desire to instill in young people an interest and commitment to participate in government and public policy and to take an active role in the issues that affect them. As a result, we know that her legacy will live on in the Hunter College public service scholars she has trained throughout the years.

Sister Rita Nowatzki is a passionate, empathetic and nurturing Sister of Charity. Her dedicated work to promote social justice will benefit New York for years to come. As much as we will miss her ever-vigilant leadership, we know that her spirit of compassion will continue to grace us. As she begins the next chapter of her life, we thank her wholeheartedly for her tireless work to make our city a better place, and we wish her the very best in the years to come.

HONORING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Tuesday, March 12, 2002, marks the 90th Anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia. Throughout its long and distinguished history, Girl Scouts and Golden Valley Council, the pre-eminent organization for girls, has inspired girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, and patriotism. Girl Scouting will lead businesses and communities to teach girls the skills needed to take active roles in math, science, and technology careers and to fulfill our country's economic needs. Through Girl Scouting, every girl, everywhere grows strong, gains self-confidence and skills for success, and learns her duty to the world around her. Through participation in Girls' Voices, a national community service project, every girl will learn to use her own voice to address an issue of concern to her and perhaps make a change for the better in her community. Some fifty million women have enjoyed the benefits of the Girl Scouts program, as an American tradition, for 90 years. Now, therefore, I GEORGE RADANOVICH, by virtue of the authority vested in me as a U.S. Representative, 19th District, for the State of California do hereby proclaim the week of March 10-16 as Girl Scout Week.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FIREFIGHTER SHAWN POWELL—ENGINE NUMBER 207

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as a Tribute to Firefighter Shawn Powell of Engine Number 207, a member of the Vulcan's Society and one of the fallen heroes of September 11, I would like to insert the following proclamation into the record:

Whereas, September 11, 2001 was a day of horror and tragedy that will forever live in the memory Americans, and;

Whereas, more than 3,000 people from many occupations, nationalities, ethnic groups, religions and creeds were brutally murdered by terrorists, and;

Whereas, members of the New York City Fire Department, New York City Police Department, Port Authority and other Public Safety Personnel, through their valiant, courageous and heroic, efforts saved the lives of thousands under unprecedented destructive circumstances, and

Whereas, more than 300 New York City Firefighters lost their lives in the effort to save others, and

Whereas, Congressman Major R. Owens and the people of the 11th Congressional District salute the bravery and dedication of all who gave their full measure of devotion, and;

Whereas, we deem it appropriate to highlight the courage and valor of individuals and groups in a variety of forms and ceremonies: Now therefore be it

Resolved: That on this 10th Day of March, Two Thousand and Two, Congressman Major R. Owens, and representative of the people of the 11th Congressional District, pause to salute the sacrifices of these honored men, and to offer their heartfelt condolences to families of these African American Firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

That the text of this resolution shall be placed in the Congressional Record of the United States House Representatives.

Given by my hand and seal this 10th day of March, Two Thousand and Two in the Year of our Lord.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH WATTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2002 the Council of Senior and Centers and Services of New York City will host a surprise retirement party for Joseph Watts. At the risk of spoiling the surprise, I rise today to pay my personal tribute to a remarkable community leader. Mr. Joseph Watts has proven to be an exceptional person committed to the pursuit of a successful career and giving back to the community throughout his life. In 1962 he graduated from the American Academy of Funeral Service in the State of New York and embarked upon a successful career in Funeral Service. Mr. Watts has contributed a great deal to the comfort of the bereaved in New York. Since the 1970's he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association and Regional Governor of District 6 of the New York State Funeral Directors Association. He has also served as an often honored and recognized leader of many national and international associations of Funeral Directors. These professional honors have recognized the extraordinary contribution that Mr. Watt has made throughout his professional life to his chosen profession and to his community as well.

Among the professional honors Mr. Watts received are: New York State Funeral Director of the Year in 1981; a report for President Carter on Funeral Industry and Federal Trade Commission with impact on small businesses; the International Order of the Golden Rule for "Service to the Community and Profession"; honored by the White House On Social Security: "The Long View—The Effect of Social Security Reforms on the Homeless, Poor and