of Indian army officials and innocent civilians.

This leads me to believe that there is very little possibility that infiltration by Islamic militants at the Kashmir line of control has subsided, even though President Musharraf of Pakistan pledged that infiltration would decrease several months ago. Mr. Speaker, increased cross-border activity, augmented by targeted attacks against those running in the elections, and President Musharraf's calling the elections a sham, are cause for serious alarm.

Just yesterday, it was reported that a candidate, a Kashmiri state government minister, along with seven others, was killed by militants. This was the second murder of a candidate in less than a week and is the most recent addition to a string of murders by militants that have killed 40 political workers in the past several weeks. Militants have vowed to escalate violence prior to the election in an effort to disrupt the elections, and they go so far as to say that they will attempt to kill anyone who participates.

Mr. Speaker, unless there is a clear directive from the Pakistani President to the militants to end this violence surrounding the elections, and an acknowledgment from President Musharraf that these elections are not to be interfered with, and that they should proceed free and fair, it is unclear to me what type of outcome there will be between now and the conclusion of the elections. The elections go, Mr. Speaker, from September 16 until sometime in October.

I would urge President Musharraf of Pakistan to take a leadership role and to ensure India that the elections can take place without any threat of violence. I urge the Bush administration to put more pressure on Musharraf to end cross-border infiltration and not condone interference at the polls in Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, I mention that when the Indian external minister, Mr. Sinha, was here, he spoke to our Secretary of State, Mr. Powell, and asked him to do whatever he could to put pressure on Musharraf to make sure that the elections in Kashmir are not interfered with.

But, of course, the concern is whether Musharraf is going to carry through. He has to be made to uphold his commitments to ending terrorism, and the first step he can take is to do everything in his power to ensure that cross-border terrorism into Kashmir ceases and that the elections in Kashmir take place freely and fairly, without the threat of violence to the candidates or Kashmiri voters.

A TRIBUTE TO CONNELLY SPRINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, let me just say, nestled halfway between Raleigh and Asheville in North Carolina is a little town called Connelly Springs. It is a small town built around an old stagecoach stop which now serves railroad passengers.

Named for its healthful spring waters, Connelly Springs was incorporated in 1920; but due to taxes, licenses, fines, and other onerous government impositions, residents decided to repeal the town charter in 1933.

As time passed, residents needed a water supply system as local wells became less productive. Residential roads needed paving, and the State only paved highways. To address these community needs, a group of citizens petitioned the State legislative bodies to allow a vote on reincorporation; and in 1989, 266 out of the 400 town voters approved the effort.

Amazingly, the first government decided a nickel per hundred dollar property tax would cover the cost of government. City offices were established in the old filling station with a volunteer clerk to handle the details. In addition, six volunteer council members would set town policy.

The council did an outstanding job meeting the community's needs. When two larger towns on either side of Connelly Springs decided to run a large water line connecting those two, the town of Connelly Springs' council realized the lines would pass near the northern boundary of the new town. They decided to go into the deal for $200,000 paid over 20 years.

The plan worked beautifully. With several backhoes and other equipment to aid in the installation, Connelly Springs installed the water lines and became the first North Carolina self-help program member whose local residents provided the time and the resources to install their own water lines.

With the aid from their Rensselaerville Institute and the Appalachian Regional Commission, a $60,000 loan from the Ford Foundation, and local funds, the town reached the necessary projected cost of $282,000.

Three years ago, I shoveled a little dirt to prepare the land for a new town hall. This September 7, I helped cut the ribbon to open the finished town hall. The upper floors contain offices and the council chamber, and the lower floor will be a community center for all local groups to use whenever they need it.

We ate hot dogs and hamburgers to celebrate the grand opening. It is all paid for, and they have money in the bank. In all my life, I have never seen a more dedicated group of citizens who manage their efforts and money so carefully. I only wish I had some of that dedication in Raleigh, North Carolina, and also in Washington, D.C.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL STAFF AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our Nation and this House paid a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11, to the heroic rescuers, and to their families.

Today, I would like to take just a moment to honor another group of people who serve this Nation in a less dramatic way, but who are heroes in their own right and in their own quiet ways.

Last year, just 1 day after our Nation came under attack, and this very building was among the targets, the men and women who work here in this building, in our offices and in countless other government offices throughout this land, came right back in to work to serve this great Nation. When they came in to work on that September 12 morning, they knew then and they have known each and every day since then that they work in a potential target.

Scarcely a month later, they then faced a new challenge when anthrax entered our buildings, and for some of our staff, entered their bodies. The Capitol Police, the janitors and maintenance workers, the grounds crews, the people who serve food, the secretaries, the Parliamentarians, the clerks, the young pages, our legislative and our committee staff, our field and caseworkers, and all the other dedicated and courageous people who make this place and our government run all deserve our thanks and our praise.

With tears in their eyes, with sadness and with fear in their hearts, but with indomitable courage they came right back to work to serve this country we all love.

A year has passed now, and the immediate danger may have been diminished; but it remains in our awareness. Still, our staffs and the rest of the employees come to work, and in doing so, they serve our country.

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In these times, this takes courage. So, and for that courage, I am grateful and this country is deeply fortunate.

HONORING OFFICER CRYSTAL D. SHEFFIELD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute and honor Crystal D. Sheffield, a Baltimore City police officer who was killed in the line of duty while coming to the aid of a fellow officer on August 21, 2002. She was the city's first female officer ever to die in the line of duty.

Following a family tradition of public service, Officer Sheffield became a

Baltimore City police officer in 1999, joining 3 family members already on the police force. Officer Sheffield was raised in Baltimore and loved her city. She wanted to give back to Baltimore and the community she loved. She worked the midnight shift in the western district of Baltimore, which is one of the more dangerous districts.

I had the opportunity to attend Officer Sheffield's wake and funeral services a few weeks ago. It was a moving ceremony with more than 300 people in attendance. Political officials, ordinary citizens, police officers and firefighters from Baltimore, the State of Maryland and other jurisdictions were among the attendance. Many people approached the family, telling them stories of how Officer Sheffield helped them with a problem. The testimonial showed how much she was loved and will be missed.

She worked the western district, which was near my house, and I got a chance to know her. It is interesting to note that when told of her tragic death, some of my neighbors simply wept. Not only was Officer Sheffield a dedicated police officer, she was also a dedicated wife and mother. She is survived by her husband, Lt. William Sheffield, a Baltimore City firefighter, and her son, Darian. It was said that she wanted to be a role model for her son so she worked hard, building a wonderful reputation of being dependable and a great police officer who could easily resolve conflicts. Officer Sheffield could often be found at her son's school, talking to his teachers and encouraging him to excel.

Police officers work and put their lives at risk for all of us. Like all police officers, Officer Sheffield took an oath to protect and to serve. She was simply doing her job. Officer Sheffield did not know that her next call would be her last call, but she lost her life going to the aid of a fellow officer. That was the type of officer and the type of person Officer Sheffield was.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay special tribute to Officer Crystal Sheffield, a real American hero and a role model for us all. I extend my condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Officer Sheffield, and my thanks for a job well done.

VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the 5-minute special order of Mr. JONES of North Carolina requested on September 9, 2002 is vacated.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DROUGHT AID THROUGH THE FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to discuss a very pressing and most distressing issue in the Great Plains States and much of the mountain West; and as can be seen by the map here, the drought map, we are currently experiencing a drought across the United States that affects roughly 45 percent of the land mass of the country.

In a normal year we can expect drought in maybe 10 percent or 15 percent of the country. And you can see by the severe brown marks and the red marks that the drought is not only extensive, it is extreme.

These are areas where essentially all the pastures are gone. The cattlemen have no feed left for the winter. They have had to sell off their herd in many cases because there is no way that they can feed their cattle. And as we have had the glut on the cattle markets, prices have declined and a great many cattlemen have taken huge losses, so we are seeing tremendous distress in the livestock industry, particularly in the cattle industry.

Also, what we have found is those who have raised crops have experienced a similar difficulty. The dry land crops are totally gone in all of those areas that are red and brown. And, of course, this has caused huge economic distress. Even those areas that are irrigated have lost substantially because one cannot run a center pivot fast enough to keep up with the drought. In many areas they have lost their ditch water. The water has been cut off because the rivers are dry. There is no water available. So even irrigated crops are severely impacted.

So some have said, well, what we have to do is take the money out of the new farm bill because there is a huge amount of money in there and just take it out of there. We have not been able to figure out how we can get enough money out of the farm bill without destroying the farm bill that will undo this huge problem. So as a result, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and myself have introduced legislation that we think addresses this problem.

At the present time we are estimated to lose $1.4 billion in the State of Nebraska alone. Kansas also is roughly $1.4 billion and the other States that we see here will have similar losses, so it is a huge loss. The thing that we are concerned about is if there were a hurricane that affected that amount of land mass in the United States, or if we had a wildfire that burned up that much area in the United States, or if we had a tornado that affected that much, or a flood or whatever, we would immediately have assistance. But a drought occurs slowly over time and it is not quite as visible, but the economic devastation is every bit as great as what these other disasters might have.

So we need help and we need it now. We cannot take the money out of the farm bill because there simply is not that much there. So what we have proposed is another solution, and that is that we look at this, at the spending currently in the farm bill.

We will see in the heavy blue line here what has been budgeted for the farm bill in the year 2002, roughly $19 billion. Yet, recent projections by CBO indicate that roughly $13 billion will be spent this year. So it is a $6 billion shortfall. And, you say, why is that? Well, the reason is because the drought, the drought has reduced production of corn, soybeans, milo, sorghum, rye, many other crops by 10 to 15 percent. Therefore, the price has risen. So as the price has risen, there is no need for government payments, no countercyclical payment, no loan deficiency payments. So as a result we will see a savings, so to speak, of roughly $6 billion, and the reason for the saving, if you want to call it that, is simply because we have had a drought. And those people who have been affected most by the drought, who have been hurt by the drought, will not receive any payments.

What we are proposing is we take this shortfall, this $5 billion or whatever, and allocate it to emergency drought assistance. It does not break the budget. It falls within what has already been budgeted. This contrasts sharply with what the other body has proposed. They want to add roughly $6 billion of new spending. We think this is fiscally responsible. We think it certainly addresses the issue that is going on in the West and other parts of the country, even in the southeastern part of the country. But the main thing we are trying to drive home is this is critical and this is not emergency spending. It is not because of low prices. It is because of natural disaster. It is disaster spending which we need badly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge careful consideration of my colleagues to this dilemma that we are now facing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LESSONS LEARNED FROM SEPTEMBER 11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as we continue our reflection on September 11, I wanted to take a moment to enter into the RECORD a piece written by the