

his heroism. Tomorrow, he will be recognized again by the National Association of Letter Carriers for his courageous actions here in Washington D.C. The true magnitude of his bravery can only be fully illustrated by the fact that the child whom he saved, Nicholas Reyes, will have the opportunity to reach his full potential. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honor to recognize Mr. Salvador A. Lopez before this body of Congress and this nation for his bravery and composure in a time of adversity. Mr. Lopez's courage is an example of what all Americans throughout the country are capable of demonstrating when faced with extraordinary circumstances. Congratulations on your achievement, Salvador, and good luck in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DAVE MANEY

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dave Maney of Augusta, Georgia. Mr. Maney is Experience Works' 2001 Older Worker of the Year for the State of Georgia.

As a Marketing Representative with the Department of Labor Career Center in Georgia, Mr. Maney changes the downhill direction of the unemployed every day. His job is to motivate, encourage and inspire clients into believing in their ability to find and keep a job. The way Mr. Maney describes his job is . . . "Most of my clients, and there have been more than 600 this year, seldom set goals, and when they do, they are not high enough. I teach them that goals have to be higher than anything they have ever done."

His goals in life have been simple. "The keys to my success and to the life I have had to this point have been a positive attitude, a great wife and wonderful home life, and loving interaction with people."

That interaction with people, especially those who are labeled non-custodial parents, and food stamp recipients, has added tremendous value to both his life and work. From his first job as a custodian at Montgomery Ward, to his service in the Korean Conflict, raising six children, and surviving cancer, Mr. Maney has had a full and challenging life. "With all I've been through I would still say that giving people self-worth and hope for a better tomorrow is my proudest accomplishment," says Mr. Maney.

Mr. Speaker, due to the events of last September we were not able to honor Mr. Maney for his accomplishments. I hope that you will join me today to do so.

CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS
INITIATIVE—SENATE OPENING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today, Americans for a Free Cuba gathered on the Senate steps to officially open the Cuban Political Prisoners Initiative display in the Sen-

ate Russell Office Building. They will be storming the halls of the US Senate tomorrow, urging Senators not to vote for lifting the travel ban on Cuba.

The Business and Agricultural communities have used their vast resources to make their case for lifting sanctions on Cuba at a summit here in Washington, but we know that their case is based on their own self-interest. They have failed to acknowledge or fully consider that lifting sanctions would empower Castro to cling to power and continue his reign of terror over millions of suffering people.

The members of the Americans for a Free Cuba have heroically made the case for those Cubans who cannot speak for themselves because of Castro's brutal and restrictive regime through their silent vigil and demonstration. This is a regime that prohibits freedom in almost every way possible while punishing and imprisoning all opposition. The compelling stories of Cuban defectors clearly demonstrate that many will do whatever they can to escape the dreadful conditions brought about by their totalitarian ruler. Both the people and political prisoners in Cuba as well as those who cherish freedom are counting on Americans to stand up to Castro and keep the pressure on through the embargo.

Thankfully, President Bush is behind The Americans for a Free Cuba 100 percent. I commend President Bush for the strong and unwavering stance he has taken against the Castro regime. The President has made it clear that the United States will work with Cuba only after Castro takes concrete measures to improve the abysmal human rights situation in his country. I support the President's demand to Castro that he must free political prisoners, legalize political activity, permit free elections, and cease discriminating against Cuban workers before Congress should even begin to consider lifting economic sanctions. Administration officials have vowed a Presidential veto to any version of the Treasury-Postal Appropriations bill that weakens trade or travel sanctions on Cuba.

The Cuba Political Prisoners Initiative was initially launched in April when over a dozen members of Congress, from both political parties, adopted a dozen political prisoners. These prisoners each have a unique story but all share in a common suffering because of their love of freedom.

While the Cuba Political Prisoners Initiative was launched this Spring, it will not end until every single Cuban political prisoner is free. I am sending out a letter signed by my colleagues who are part of this initiative to Sergio Vielra de Mello, the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, urging him to follow through on the resolution this commission adopted in April that called on the Cuban government to improve its record on human, civil, and political rights and allow the UN and other representatives to examine human rights conditions in Cuba.

Twenty former political prisoners were amongst those gathered on the Senate steps today.

They are the heroes for freedom that endured the horrors of Castro's Cuba and lived to tell about it. Also in attendance was Maritza Lugo Fernandez a former Cuban political prisoner joining us today who was jailed more than 30 times before she was exiled by the Castro regime. Her husband, Rafael Ibarra Roque, is still a political prisoner in Cuba and is the prisoner I have adopted.

Before going to prison, where he has been since 1994, Mr. Roque's home was raided by Castro's thugs, who seized virtually everything he owned of value including the family car, the stove, a television, and even his pets. He was arrested and charged with "sabotage," but no credible evidence whatsoever exists that he committed this crime. Those close to the case know his real "crime" was having the courage and audacity to speak out against the regime and demand the same freedoms Americans—and other freedom loving people hold to be self-evident and a basic foundation for society.

Mr. Roque has been sentenced to twenty years in the wretched Combinado del Este Prison in Havana where political prisoners are subjected to especially brutal treatment. The State Department's 2001 Human Rights report on Cuba speaks of political prisoners suffering beatings, intimidation, and sexual abuse. These abuses are carried out not only by prison officials but also by state security agents posing as prisoners.

Unfortunately Mr. Roque's case is not an exception but rather the norm for human rights activists in Cuba. Hundreds of others whose only crime is their love of freedom languish in Castro's prisons and the Cuban people on a whole have suffered under the terror of his rule for over 40 years.

The Cuba Political Prisoners Initiative display that we have opened in the Senate Rotunda is somber but will serve as an important reminder of the hundreds of innocent Cubans languishing in Castro's prisons for all Senators, Senate staff, and visitors who pass by it each day. I am confident that when the American people and members of Congress hear the true facts about the great human rights abuses occurring in Cuba, and fully consider the great harm Castro seeks to do our nation through working with terrorist states and harboring fugitives of justice, they will agree that keeping sanctions on Cuba is our only option.

The challenge of fighting for human rights in Cuba remains great. However, we must never give up and we must never, ever forget those who are persecuted for carrying the torch of freedom.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the victims of the tragic events of one year ago. Last year on September 11th Americans awoke to a brutal attack on our country on its own soil. Throughout the course of this one tragic day, something that at once seemed inconceivable became a horrific reality. No one feels the pain of this day more acutely than the families and friends of the more than 3,000 people who

lost their lives at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. All of these people and their families are in our thoughts and prayers on this somber occasion.

Although there is little that we in Congress can do to ease those families' suffering, by adopting this resolution, we are reaffirming our commitment to honor the memory of the people who were lost that day, while also paying tribute to those individuals who unselfishly risked their own lives to protect others.

Mr. Speaker, September 11th was one of the most difficult days in American history. But in the darkness of that day, an incredible spirit of bravery and hope emerged. Hundreds of emergency rescue personnel descended upon the scene at both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon with the sole purpose of assisting others. At the same time, ordinary people demonstrated amazing courage by trying to help others escape while putting themselves in peril and in fighting back against the terrorists on United Flight 93. It is truly remarkable how many people gave their lives trying to protect others. The bravery and generosity of these people is a lasting mark of September 11th.

In responding to these extraordinarily trying times, the true fabric of American society was illustrated to the world. Americans around the world came together and generously gave of themselves in a myriad of ways. Rescue workers spent countless hours at ground zero searching for survivors and then shuffling through the debris. Construction workers, ironworkers and other personnel tirelessly worked their way through the wreckage in an effort to clean up the site. Their important task would not be interrupted by exhaustion, injury or inclement weather. However, far away from ground zero, and across the globe, people generously gave their time, energy, money and caring to help support the loved ones of the lost victims. Today, we honor these selfless contributions.

As we gather now, one year later, it is my hope that we never forget the spirit that pervaded this country in the weeks and months following the attacks. As we continue to rebuild and to heal, we will need to draw upon that strength. The American people demonstrated amazing resolve and resilience in the last year, and it is a resolve that we must continue to maintain, day by day, week by week, this year and for many years, that we will preserve our freedoms, protect our families, and work to cleanse the world of the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, in the wake of September 11th, Congress rallied in a strong bipartisan manner to quickly pass legislative measures to protect our country. It was this remarkable unity of purpose that most struck me when I was sworn into this body in October of last year. Over time, this unity has dissipated some, but our goal should remain clear. We in Congress owe it to the American people to do all that we can to make sure that the necessary resources are available to protect our country. This is a serious responsibility and not one that should be burdened by partisan debate. In the coming months, we must act responsibly and decisively to ensure that the people of the United States once again feel safe in their own cities and towns. I commend the leadership of both the Republican and

Democratic parties for recognizing this important anniversary and for introducing this thoughtful resolution.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN
OF LA JARA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the town of La Jara, Colorado as a beacon of western spirit and pride for over a century. I am proud to have the pleasure of applauding a growing community that strengthens our society's values. The town is truly an inspirational token, established and sustained through determination and hard work and I am honored to pay tribute to the town today.

La Jara was incorporated on March 11, 1902 with Mayor Austin Valdez as the founding father and trailblazer for the town. La Jara settlers moved into the region to establish a better life and brought with them the vision and the tools to build a thriving community. La Jara's settlers first migrated West following the railroad and its expansionists prospects. The settlers lived in the region with no more than a few brick houses and a water tower and, although the lifestyle for each settler was hard and troublesome, the determination of those early pioneers laid the foundation that has upheld through the ages.

Initial settlement of the town is due in large to the San Luis Valley Company of the 1800s. In 1888, the company orchestrated a large sales campaign and sold numerous plots of land in La Jara. These plots motivated migrants to establish homes and settle the land in the valley, leading to a population boom by the 1890's. Today La Jara exists as an established town with all the essential functions and amenities of a metropolitan city.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my admiration and gratitude to the town and residents of La Jara, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Truly the seeds of success have been planted in La Jara and are bringing forth the best for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO KIM ROAM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a longtime community leader in eastern Jackson County, MO, will be receiving the Citizen of the Year Award at the Truman Heartland Community Foundation annual benefit dinner. Mr. Kim Roam has demonstrated a strong commitment to the area and has helped to ensure a brighter future for the community.

Mr. Roam began his community activity in the county in 1983 after he joined the law firm Cochran, Oswald, McDonald Roam & Moore, P.C. Since that time he has served as Presi-

dent of the Blue Springs Jaycees, Chairman of the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce, Grain Valley School District Parent Teacher Support Board Member, the Valley Arts and Beautification Council Member and a member of the Grain Valley Optimist Club.

Mr. Roam has also enjoyed recognition for being spotlighted as Blue Springs' Outstanding Citizen of 1994, as Rotary Citizen of the Year 1995, and as co-recipient of the Commerce Bank William T. Kemper Foundation Blue Springs Community Service Award, which he shared with his spouse, Debbie.

Mr. Kim Roam has distinguished himself as a community leader in eastern Jackson County. He has and continues to make his friends and family proud. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Kim Roam and his family all the best.

COMMEMORATIVE JOINT MEETING
OF THE CONGRESS OF THE
UNITED STATES IN
REMEMBRANCE OF THE VIC-
TIMS AND HEROES OF SEP-
TEMBER 11, 2001, AND IN REC-
OGNITION OF THE COURAGE AND
SPIRIT OF THE CITY OF NEW
YORK, FEDERAL HALL, NEW
YORK, NY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER
6, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in the House and Senate in commemorating the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001, during our special session of Congress held in Federal Hall in New York, New York.

On the days following the attacks on September 11th, Americans across the country came together to demonstrate the strength and resiliency of this great country. It is in that same spirit that we stand together today—both Republicans and Democrats—to reaffirm that strength and resiliency by showing a strong bipartisan expression that we are first and foremost Americans and are committed to protecting the freedoms and values that make this country great.

As we go through this week and revisit some of the darkest moments in our nation's history, we must remember that our nation has always been one that has triumphed over adversity. At times of great despair, America has consistently risen to its greatest hours.

In remembrance of those lives lost on September 11th and to heroes that emerged on that fateful day, I would like to close with some words from President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address:

“that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion . . . that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain . . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom . . . and that government of the people . . . by the people . . . for the people . . . shall not perish from the earth.”

May God bless America.