

Centennial Celebration. Holy Redeemer has long held a place in my heart, and I have been honored to represent the people and parish for nearly 30 years. Holy Redeemer is well known for its positive contributions to the neighborhood and the residents of North and Northeast Portland. Since 1906, the church has been a community anchor and a center of education, spiritual support, justice to all people, and good works.

Catholic education has played an important role in Oregon, and more children have graduated from Holy Redeemer School than any other Catholic grade school in Oregon. The gift of education liberates people and in turn has made Portland and Oregon better communities. We owe thanks to the founding priests and brothers of the Redemptorist Order, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, thousands of parishioners, and now the Congregation of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church for making my Congressional District and all of Oregon a better place.

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TRIBUTE FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

**HON. THELMA D. DRAKE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we remembered the tragic events that unfolded 5 years ago on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

We remembered a day replete with loss, but also replete with heroism.

As we reflect on those who died that fateful day—as we mourn those family members and friends whose lives were taken by a group of radical extremists, I would like to pay tribute to the 343 firefighters who were lost in the wreckage of the World Trade Center.

I am often amazed when I reflect back on the acts of those firefighters. For most, the human instinct is to turn and run away from imminent danger. Yet, they were prepared to sacrifice their own lives in order to save the lives of those they had never met. This courage was born from a commitment to service that is shared with thousands more across the Nation.

They are our first responders, and every time America is threatened, whether by an act of God or an act of man, they are the first to arrive, providing certainty out of an uncertain situation. Many Americans, in New York City and around our country, owe their lives to first responders. We owe them an immeasurable debt of gratitude, not only for what they have done, but for what they are prepared to do.

We must never forget the tragedy of September 11th, and we should never forget the triumphs of September 11th. America is a better place because of the strength, the courage and the determination of our first responders.

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2006—A DAY OF  
SORROW AND REMEMBRANCE

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 5 years removed from the tragedy of

September 11, 2001, our Nation still feels the pain and sorrow from that fateful day. Like no other event in recent history, September 11 brought America together in a time of grief and an outpouring of emotion. Today, we remember the 3,000 innocent lives taken in the blink of an eye by these terrorist attacks.

I still remember watching the news that Tuesday morning and seeing footage of the planes hitting the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. Like you, I sat and prayed for the men and women that were trapped in the smoking buildings. Everyone offered our thanks to those brave citizens of New York and Virginia who rushed into the burning wreckage, trying to rescue any possible survivors. And I wept when watching the towers collapse into the streets of New York. These are moments frozen in time that no American could ever forget.

On the anniversary of these horrible attacks, it is fitting for Americans to pause and reflect on the challenges our Nation now faces to defend our freedoms. A committed group of religious Islamic terrorists—fanatics who twist and pervert the teachings of the Koran to meet their extremist goals—are bent on destroying America and its allies in the global war on terror.

We have seen attacks in Britain, Spain and Indonesia that have killed hundreds of innocent civilians. Law enforcement officials have used innovative and modernized counterterrorism policies to help successfully thwart terrorist plots in the Netherlands, Britain, Canada and the United States; plots that may have killed thousands. The lesson learned from these experiences is that we must remain ever vigilant in the global war if we are to defend against this enemy.

Like December 7, 1941 before it, September 11 has become a day of remembrance. It is a time to remember the lives lost that day, as well as the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers deployed on the front lines. September 11 is also a reminder that there is work left to do. It is groups like al-Qaeda, Hezbollah and Hamas whose goal it is to destroy America and everything that defines our great Nation. They will continue to plot new and innovative terrorist attacks against our homeland and our people. It is up to the Congress and the President to work together to ensure that September 11 is never repeated again.

America must never forget the events of September 11, 2001. They shaped a generation of men and women across the country and thrust us squarely into the global war on terror. On the fifth anniversary of that day, the United States should pause to remember the thousands of innocent lives lost and the sacrifices of the military men and women who serve around the globe to protect our rights and freedoms.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. WESLEY GORDON  
II

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable citizen, Mr. Wesley Gordon II of Fort Atkinson, WI. The National Postmaster of the Year award was recently

bestowed upon Mr. Gordon in recognition of his contributions to the community and to the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. Gordon, who began his career as a temporary mail carrier in Middleton, has been head of the Fort Atkinson Post Office since 1995. Serving in a number of different capacities and communities throughout his career, Mr. Gordon served as the officer in charge in Highland, Cottage Grove, Brodhead and Fort Atkinson and postmaster in Wisconsin Dells and Monroe.

In addition to his 37 years of work for the U.S. Postal Service, Wesley Gordon has been a longtime soccer and baseball coach, is an active member of the Lions Club and Knights of Columbus and volunteers for St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Atkinson.

In the local postal community, Mr. Gordon is known as a leader who understands the concept of teamwork. He is quick to point out the importance and excellence of his employees as he talks about his vision for the future, which is “to make every post office a place people enjoy coming to and want to return to.”

I am pleased to join with the U.S. Postal Service in recognizing Mr. Gordon’s hard work and dedication. Fort Atkinson and the State of Wisconsin are fortunate and grateful to be the beneficiaries of Wesley Gordon’s work. Thank you, Mr. Gordon, and best of luck with your future endeavors.

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COMMENDING REV. THADDEUS  
SWIRSKI

**HON. SHERROD BROWN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the Rev. Thaddeus Swirski, pastor of St. Hedwig’s Church, in Akron, Ohio, for his service to his parish, the community, and our nation.

A member of the faculty of the University of Akron, Rev. Swirski serves as Chaplain for ROTC Army and Air Force, and the Ohio Military Reserve in the rank of Colonel. He has received six distinguished medals for his military service.

Father Swirski grew up in German-occupied Poland. Born on April 26, 1930, and orphaned at age 3, he spent his first years in Warsaw and later in an orphanage near the Russian border. As an elementary school student, he became active in the Polish underground and joined the resistance against Nazi occupation. He was decorated for his participation in the resistance.

At age 14, Father Swirski joined the First Polish Army, which was organized in the former Polish territory then occupied by Russia. As a young soldier, he participated in the battlefield near Moscow, in Warsaw, then in Berlin, and the River Elba as well as in the Baltic region and Western Polish territory. He was highly decorated by the end of the war. After the collapse of communism in East Europe, Father Swirski was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

Though he was homeless at the end of the war, he became a full-time student, attending day, evening, and summer classes in order to finish high school, working to support himself as he studied. After completing high school,

he exchanged his rifle for the Chalice, Cross and Bible and entered the Seminary. He was ordained into the priesthood on June 29, 1954, in Warmia, Poland.

In August, 1962, he emigrated to the United States and subsequently earned his Master's degree from Case Western Reserve University. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Cleveland and taught Slavic languages and literature at Ursuline College. He also studied for his Ph.D. at the University of Ottawa, Canada. For seven years, Father Swirski hosted a religious program on Sunday mornings on WXEN FM in Cleveland. He is also the author of two novels and four books of poetry.

Father Swirski considers his priesthood his most important vocation and has worked diligently to keep St. Hedwig's Parish spiritually and financially viable. Though his parish is small, thanks to Father Swirski, St. Hedwig's has helped the needy through donations of food for many years. Father Swirski never refuses to help meet the spiritual needs of his parishioners, their families, and their relatives.

Father Swirski is the longest serving pastor of St. Hedwig's Parish, serving from July, 1974, to the present. I am grateful for his unfaltering and compassionate service to his parish and to the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST  
CLASS RICHARD J. HENKES

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I ask for your attention so we can honor a fallen hero. Sergeant First Class Richard J. Henkes was a proud American, a fellow Oregonian—he was a warrior who stood on the edge of the world so that each of us could enjoy the blessings of liberty.

I ask for this moment because just last week, Richard gave his last full measure of devotion while on patrol in Mosul, Iraq.

Though the war continues on, we must remember the individual sacrifice of the men and women fulfilling their charge. We cannot allow ourselves to forget the faces or the families of the brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines that serve on the brink of chaos so that others might live free.

Sergeant Henkes was courageous; he selflessly went where others feared to tread. I believe that Oregon, that America, that our world is less, far less, for his passing. We can ill afford to lose patriots of his character and passion.

Yesterday we gathered with friends and loved ones to mark the passing of another September 11th. It has been five years since the terror attacks of 2001. Since that day we have been a nation at war; since that moment we have fought that war by sending our best and brightest across the globe to defend our ideals, to protect our communities. And since that time we have been in debt to citizens like Richard Henkes.

Richard wanted a life in uniform so that he could make a difference; he viewed service to his country as a calling and wanted to keep his nation, state, and community safe from harm. Sergeant Henkes understood what many forget: freedom demands sacrifice. We

are indebted to his willingness to take upon himself the burden of service; we are forever connected to Richard because of his devotion to our lives.

Sergeant Henkes remained in the Army because he wanted something better for his daughter Isabel. Like most of us, Richard hoped that his child could inherit a healthier place, a safer community. Sadly, Sergeant Henkes will not be able to secure that future for Isabel, but we can. She is now a part of our family; Isabel is now our shared responsibility.

We in this chamber have an obligation, a duty, to ensure that Isabel inherits a land worthy of her father's sacrifice. We here today, must bear personal responsibility for doing our part—for Richard has already done his.

Although I never had the opportunity to meet Richard, I know him through his actions, his hopes, and his values. When his nation called, Richard answered. When his daughter needed, Richard delivered. And when duty demanded the ultimate sacrifice, Richard fulfilled his charge without hesitation, reservation, or doubt.

Today let us come together and express our profound sorrow at the loss of our Richard Henkes. Let us join in one voice and tell the Henkes family that we thank them for the life and service of their Richard. Let us prove to them by our actions in the future, that his sacrifice was not in vain. And let us endeavor to keep Richard and all those he served with in our thoughts and prayers as we decide the course of our nation.

THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL:  
REFORM OR REGRESSION?

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week I chaired a hearing to examine issues related to the new United Nations Human Rights Council, which held its first session from the 19th to the 30th of June, this year, and two special sessions in July and August, respectively.

I believe it is tragic, and dismaying in the extreme to note that despite the self-congratulatory euphoria of many last March at its creation, the new human rights machinery remains broken, in need of serious repair and fundamental reform. The Human Rights Council has, thus far, continued the credibility deficit of its predecessor. The victims of abuse throughout the world deserve better. And, thus far, they haven't gotten it.

Not only did the Council unfairly and myopically criticize Israel at its inaugural session, but both special sessions convened to date—on July 5–6 and August 11—were held exclusively to condemn Israel with nary a mention of egregious abuse by Hezbollah or Hamas or the roles of Syria and Iran.

Amazingly, there has been no special session on the ongoing—and worsening—genocide in Darfur. No special session of the systematic use of torture by the People's Republic of China, even though Manfred Nowak, the U.N.'s own rapporteur on torture, recently issued a scathing report on the pervasive use of torture by the Chinese government; no spe-

cial session on Cuba's abuse of political prisoners or on Burma or North Korea or Belarus or Iran or Zimbabwe. Just Israel.

Not only has the Council expended all its efforts on Israel, but it has also failed to do so in a "fair and equal manner." The Council has made no reference to the roles of Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria and Iran in the creation of the situations concerned or to the harm inflicted by parties other than Israel. Thus, the early evidence indicates that the Council has already been co-opted by an extremely biased and narrow agenda.

This development is of extreme concern, both for the international human rights community and for those of us convinced of the need for reform at the United Nations. The Human Rights Council, and through it the United Nations as a whole, have a vital role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights. It is critical that the United States and other human rights defenders do everything, and as quickly as possible, to reverse the direction in which the Council is heading.

By way of background, on April 19, 2005, the subcommittee that I chair, the Subcommittee of Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, held a hearing on the Council's predecessor, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. In my statement at that hearing, I noted that the Commission had come under increasing criticism from numerous quarters. A U.N. High-Level Panel concluded in December 2004 that the Commission's capacity to fulfill its mandate had been undermined by eroding credibility and professionalism. The Panel pointed out that States with a poor human rights record cannot set the standard for human rights. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan later agreed with this assessment, and he told the Commission that "unless we re-make our human rights machinery, we may be unable to renew public confidence in the United Nations itself."

On March 15, 2006, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution that replaced the discredited Commission with the Human Rights Council. The General Assembly gave the Council the mandate to promote "universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner," and to "address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations." The United States was one of four countries to vote against the resolution. The U.S.'s opposition was based on the absence of a stronger mechanism to maintain a credible membership, and thus the lack of assurance that the Council would be an improvement over its predecessor.

In my public statement issued immediately after the resolution's adoption, I expressed my deep disappointment that the General Assembly had settled for a weak and deeply flawed replacement for the Commission. The flaws I noted included the membership concerns expressed by the United States, as well as the lack of protection for Israel from unfair and biased special sessions.

Another potentially serious flaw that I have noted is the Council's mandate to promote follow-up to the goals and commitments related to the promotion and protection of human rights emanating from United Nations conferences and summits. My concern is based in large part on the serious distinction that exists between human rights treaties and consensus