

9/11, I think that we should remember every day that a Member of Congress or the President has the privilege of serving the public in this building, in this temple of representative government, that we ought to thank those heroes for preserving for us the right to be able to represent them here in this structure because without that heroism, not only would the structure not be here, but there's many of us that will vote on this resolution today who may not be here today if it wasn't for their heroism.

So I ask that we support this resolution. I ask that we remember what it's about and we remember that the only way to make sure it doesn't happen again is to take the time to do the right things, learn from the mistakes of 9/11 and make sure we don't forget the mistakes of 9/11 so that we never repeat the tragedy of 9/11.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 10 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Let me just make the statement, then I will be prepared to yield back. Again, I want to thank the gentleman from California. I want to thank PETER KING. I want to thank Congresswoman MATSUI; I want to thank my colleague, of course, Congressman ENGEL, for his participation. And again I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing September 11 as an ideal opportunity for giving back to our Nation through service.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 718, which recognizes September 11 as a "National Day of Service and Remembrance."

I am honored to cosponsor this resolution, and I thank Representatives DORIS MATSUI and PETER KING for their work on it.

The horrific events of September 11, 2001 made a permanent mark on our Nation's history and the lives of thousands of American families.

In recognition of this, Congress passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which included for the first time authorization and Federal recognition of September 11 as a "National Day of Service and Remembrance."

As a co-chair of the National Service Caucus, I believe that it is very fitting that Americans be encouraged to voluntarily engage in community service or other charitable activities of their own choosing in honor of those who lost their lives or were injured in the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Charitable activities have a positive and immediate impact in our communities and often make a notable difference in the lives of the people whom they benefit. Recently, I had the opportunity to serve in my community by reading books to children at the local public library and through the Reach Out and Read program. I encourage other Members of Congress and staff to set an example by voluntary service in their communities.

I encourage all Members to support this important resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to honor the memory and

sacrifice of almost 3,000 innocent men and women who lost their lives 8 years ago in the worst act of terrorism this country has ever endured.

Terrorism anywhere is a threat to life, freedom and democratic values everywhere. The tragedy of September 11th was not just a tragedy for Americans, it will forever remain a global reminder that there are people who will stop at nothing and cross any border to spread hate and visit violence upon the innocent.

The President has expressed his determination to face the cancer of global terrorism with renewed purpose and to defeat it at its source. He has made this commitment not only to safeguard lives, but also to honor the commitment of the dedicated men and women in uniform serving in harms way, here at home, and around the world.

September 11th is a day to remember those who lost their lives and to express our solidarity with the families they left behind. It is a day to honor the heroic public servants who help keep us safe here and abroad and a day for Americans to express their gratitude for their sacrifice.

September 11th is also a day of acknowledgment of the dangerous world we live in today and of the difficult task that still lies ahead.

Mr. TOWNS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 718.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE FIRST RESPONDERS AND VICTIMS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 724) honoring the first responders, paying tribute to the victims of the Southern California wildfires, and mourning the loss of the Firefighter Captain Tedmund "Ted" Hall, and Firefighter Specialist Arnaldo "Arnie" Quinones.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 724

Whereas beginning in August 2009, California has experienced a number of devastating wildfires which have burned hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private lands, destroyed and damaged structures and homes, and forced the evacuation of thousands of homes and businesses;

Whereas high temperatures and erratic winds caused the multiple fires to rapidly progress to a point that the Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency in the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Placer, and Mariposa;

Whereas loss of life and serious injuries have resulted from the fires;

Whereas beginning on August 26, 2009, the Station Fire, ignited by arson, has burned more than 160,000 acres of public lands and private property in Los Angeles County and the Angeles National Forest, including over 200 structures and homes;

Whereas the Station Fire is one of the largest in modern California history and the largest wildfire in the modern history of Los Angeles County;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire continues to threaten 7,000 structures in the Angeles National Forest and nearby communities like Altadena, La Cañada Flintridge, Acton, Glendale, La Crescenta, Pasadena, Littlerock, Sunland, Sierra Madre, and Tujunga;

Whereas more than 8,000 fire personnel, 800 fire engines, approximately 40 helicopters, 13 fixed-winged aircraft, and 88 water tenders have been deployed statewide to assist with firefighting efforts;

Whereas the extraordinary effort made by firefighters throughout the region contributed to the preservation of the historic Mount Wilson Observatory, a national landmark for astronomical research;

Whereas on August 30, 2009, the lives of two firefighters with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department were lost while battling the Station Fire: Fire Captain Tedmund "Ted" Hall, 47, and Firefighter Specialist Arnaldo "Arnie" Quinones, 34;

Whereas Fire Captain Tedmund Hall, of San Bernardino County, was a 26-year veteran of the fire service, and is survived by his wife, two sons, and his parents;

Whereas Firefighter Specialist Arnaldo Quinones, of Palmdale, was an 8-year veteran of the fire service and soon-to-be father and is survived by his wife and his mother;

Whereas more than 10 firefighters were injured as they put their lives on the line to respond to wildfires in California;

Whereas it is clear that the continued commitment and heroism exhibited by firefighters has saved countless lives, homes, and businesses;

Whereas additional emergency personnel, such as law enforcement and medical personnel, have coordinated with local authorities and firefighters and have performed beyond the call of duty in the preservation and protection of human lives; and

Whereas hundreds of volunteers gave their time to help ensure that evacuees are sheltered, clothed, fed, and emotionally comforted through this traumatic event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) offers its deepest sympathy to the families of those servicemen who lost their lives fighting the Station Fire in Southern California;

(2) commends the thousands of firefighters and emergency responders who continue to risk their lives fighting the wildfires throughout California;

(3) expresses condolences to the individuals and families who lost their homes and other property in the wildfires;

(4) extends its appreciation for the ongoing work to protect the communities and businesses that continue to be threatened by fire; and

(5) condemns the acts of arson perpetrated in igniting the Los Angeles County Station Fire.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TOWNS. I now recognize the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for moving this resolution so expeditiously and in time for a memorial service that will be conducted at Dodger Stadium this Saturday. I rise today to speak in support of legislation I've introduced with my colleague, DAVID DREIER, my neighbor in California, honoring the first responders to the recent California wildfires, paying tribute to all those who helped during this crisis, and mourning the loss of Firefighter Captain Tedmund "Ted" Hall and Firefighter Specialist Arnaldo "Arnie" Quinones who died while bravely fighting the Station fire. These courageous men made the ultimate sacrifice for their family and friends and greater community, deserve our recognition and have earned our undying gratitude.

It is, I suppose, fitting, Mr. Speaker, that we take up this resolution following the September 11 resolution. When we think of September 11, in addition to the terrible tragedy and the loss of so many innocent lives, we think of the bravery of the emergency responders who, while others were rushing out of those collapsing buildings, they were rushing in.

Similarly, in California, 3,000 miles away from the site of that terrible tragedy, we, once again see firefighters rushing in while others are rushing out. And none could exemplify this courage and this call to service more than Specialist Quinones and Captain Hall. Our thoughts today go out to the families of these brave men. And with this resolution we seek to honor their lives and also highlight the contributions of thousands of other personnel who helped fight these massive wild fires which have burned hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private lands, destroyed and damaged structures and homes and forced the evacuation of thousands of families.

The weather conditions in California have been mixed. At times the weather has been still; the wind has been still. But that has caused smoke to accumulate and hampered emergency aircraft. At other times the winds have fanned the flames and started new fires. Low humidity has also, and high ambient temperatures have, contributed to the heat of the blaze, to the point where the Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency in several counties in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Santa Cruz, Placer, Monterey and Mariposa.

The Station fire, ignited by arson, began on August 26 and burned more

than 160,000 acres of public lands and private property in L.A. County and the Angeles National Forest where it continues to burn, including over 200 structures and homes. It is currently one of the largest fires in modern California history, and the largest wild fire in the history of Los Angeles County, as far as we can tell.

The Station fire continues to threaten 7,000 structures in the national forest and nearby communities like Altadena, Acton, Glendale, La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Pasadena, Littlerock, Sunland, Sierra Madre, and Tujunga. More than 8,000 fire personnel, 800 fire engines and approximately 40 helicopters, 13 fixed-wing aircraft and 88 water tenders have been deployed statewide to assist with fire-fighting efforts.

The continuing commitment and heroism exhibited by fire fighters have saved countless lives, homes and businesses. We also recognize the additional emergency personnel such as law enforcement and medical personnel who have coordinated with local authorities and fire fighters and performed beyond the call of duty in the preservation and protection of human lives.

We also recognize hundreds of volunteers who gave their time to help ensure that evacuees are sheltered, clothed, fed and comforted during this traumatic event. I can recall visiting some of the shelters in La Crescenta and La Canada, meeting with volunteers for the Red Cross. One, Kim Lardia, who's a Glendale police officer, worked a full day in uniform as a police officer, then came out in the evening to volunteer at the shelter to make sure that people had a place to sleep. It's people like this, bravely serving the community that are such an inspiration to us and give us confidence that we will finally get this fire put out.

So I want to join with my colleague again, DAVID DREIER. We had the chance to visit the command center and speak with the fire chief and the incident commander, see the incredible coordination of Federal, State and local resources, had the chance to see not only acres and acres of burned forest land, but also homes that had been destroyed and devastated.

And we wanted to introduce this resolution today to acknowledge all the superb people who have come together to fight these fires and to pledge our commitment to make sure that the Federal Government continues to be a good partner. And once again, I urge support for this resolution.

□ 1315

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to my colleague from California (Mr. DREIER), the coauthor of this resolution.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing appreciation to my friend, colleague and partner in dealing with this and with a wide range of issues that affect the Los Angeles area, Mr. SCHIFF.

It is true that we are in the midst, Mr. Speaker, of what is the largest recorded fire in the history of Los Angeles County, and it has been a difficult time. It started in a little, tiny area above La Canada Flintridge. Immediately, we saw the wonderful local, county and State officials come together, as is so often the case, to deal with this tragedy. We also were able to see—and we continue to see at this moment, Mr. Speaker—one of the unique capabilities shown by California, because of the fact that we regularly deal with fire, that being the Unified Command.

Under Captain Mike Dietrich, the incident commander, we have seen all of these firefighters—the 8,000, the number mentioned by my colleague Mr. SCHIFF—come from near and far to join together under this Unified Command to prosecute this fire, which, as of right now, has burned over 160,000 acres.

Now, to put this in context, the Angeles National Forest is made of 650,000 acres, and it is the number one, most utilized national park in the United States of America. Why? Because of its proximity to the Los Angeles basin. In excess of 160,000 acres have burned at this point, and it's about 60 percent contained. It is hoped that full containment will take place around the 15th of this month, meaning sometime next week.

So this is a problem with which we have dealt for a long period of time, and it is obviously one we will continue to face. We all know, Mr. Speaker, that fires are a national phenomenon, but when we see lives and property threatened, it is essential that we do everything that we can to put forward priority number one, and that is the protection first of life and then of property.

As Mr. SCHIFF has said, we also know that we have tragically lost two courageous firefighters, and having just gone through the resolution dealing with September 11 and the loss of those firefighters, we are reminded again of the courage of these individuals.

Just before getting onto the airplane at LAX yesterday, I had a lengthy conversation with Laurie Barrios, who is the sister of Captain Ted Hall. She talked about the sacrifice that their family has made.

In fact, I should say, with Mr. TOWNS here, jokingly, she said, We're like a New York family.

Her father had been a battalion chief. Her brothers and other relatives are firefighters in this California family. She quoted her brother, who said at a reunion that they had had just recently, I am not a hero. I am just an average guy, doing the job that I love.

That, I believe, really is the vision and the goal that so many firefighters have. They're not selfish. They very much want to make sure that they can ensure the safety of people and property. The sacrifice. Mr. SCHIFF mentioned the Glendale officer who was in uniform at day and who volunteered at night. These people are so extraordinarily dedicated.

So Captain Ted Hall was one of those tragically killed, working to save lives and property. Specialist Arnie Quinones is the other, and I know that he is a constituent of our colleague Mr. McKEON. Mr. BERMAN is here. I know that his area has been impacted, Mr. SHERMAN's as well, Mr. LEWIS', Mr. BACA's. This has had an impact all over the southern California area; but the unique tragedy here in the case of Mr. Quinones is that his wife, Laurie, is expecting a child in 2 weeks. So, as we look at the two lives that have been lost, Specialist Quinones will have passed away before his child is born. It underscores the fragility of life and the importance of the work that these people have engaged in.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also share a little bit more of the conversation that I had with Captain Hall's sister. She referred to their family as having been firefighters for—I guess now—generations, and she talked about their respect and reverence for the environment. She said that her father would always say, when they were out hiking, to put the pinecone back exactly where it was because that is God's gift to us. She had, as had every member of their family, a wonderful reverence for the environment.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way that I can stand here and articulate the emotion that Captain Hall's sister, Laurie Barrios, shared with me when she insisted that we pursue a balanced policy when it deals with the preservation of our environment. She went so far as to say that there are, obviously, steps that could have been taken that would have diminished the magnitude of this fire. Again, I can't speak as strongly as she, but I do believe that it is absolutely essential that we pursue that very, very balanced approach in dealing with fires.

With 160,000 acres burning, one of the challenges has been, as Mr. SCHIFF said, what has happened to the air quality in the area. Well, I think that controlled burns and taking steps to ensure that fires do not spread are essential. The great team in Los Angeles County, led by Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, and others in the State of California, in the County of Los Angeles, and in these great cities that we're privileged to represent make it very, very clear that we want to take those preemptive steps to ensure that, while we'll always face fires in the future, we can diminish the level of damage that we have seen in the past 10 days in southern California.

So, Mr. Speaker, we recognize most importantly the loss of two heroes,

Captain Ted Hall and Specialist Arnie Quinones. We at the same time recognize the continued sacrifice that at this moment is going on in southern California to do everything that they possibly can to get this fire under control. In the names of Arnie Quinones and Ted Hall, I hope very much that we will do everything that we can to ensure that all levels of government and individuals take steps to make sure that we don't have the kind of tragedy through which we're going at this moment.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to close by saying I thank everyone for the cooperative effort here. Sadly, recently, we've talked a lot about heroes, and too often we mix up heroes and victims. I think we've got to remind ourselves that, when we talk about Ted Hall and Arnie Quinones, we're talking about true heroes. Victims are individuals who are at the wrong place at the wrong time and who have paid the ultimate price. Heroes are individuals who willfully put themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time and who pay the ultimate price. There is a huge difference between a hero and a victim.

Today, with this resolution, we're not only recognizing the men and women who are out fighting the fires today, but we're recognizing the heroes—all of the individuals who are fighting fires and who are addressing this issue—in the persons of Messrs. Hall and Quinones, the heroes who chose to serve their community and to put themselves in harm's way as a service. With this resolution, we do them honor and respect, not only to the two individuals but to everyone who chooses to put themselves in harm's way to protect others.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to associate myself with the remarks made by the gentleman from California by saying that, yes, they are truly real heroes. There is no question about it.

Again, I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the first responders who are fighting the California wildfires. I will tell you that that has been something that I have watched. Seeing people coming together around an issue is something for which we should all pause and say thank you.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer deep condolences to the victims of the recent California wildfires and the residents who have lost their homes and businesses; and to pay tribute to the brave firefighters and first responders still standing in harm's way.

The wildfires broke out in the last week of August. Since then, more than 160,000 acres have burned. More than 160 structures—houses and businesses—have been destroyed; nearly 4,000 more remain in harm's way.

At this stage, thousands of residents and families have been affected by the flames—

forced into shelters; displaced; facing the horrifying prospect of a home burned to the ground or a workplace caught in the blaze.

The prayers of every Member of Congress go out to every resident impacted by the fires.

As the Nation has watched the rapid spread of the wildfires, no one deserves greater praise or gratitude than our firefighters on the front lines.

These dedicated men and women stay through the night to get the job done. Their bravery is unparalleled, their heroism unmatched. Their efforts are the front line of defense against the fires, and their sacrifice is saving lives.

Two of these firefighters paid the ultimate price for the safety of LA County's residents.

Captain Tedmund "Ted" Hall and Specialist Arnaldo "Arnie" Quinones represent our nation's best values: service and sacrifice, an obligation to help others and a responsibility to protect your community.

To ensure our firefighters have the resources they need to beat back the flames, Congress provided nearly \$490 million in extra funding this year, boosting the federal government's commitment to helping the people standing in the line of fire each year.

Congress will continue to watch closely the developments and spread of the wildfires across the State of California, and we will remain steadfast in our support for state and county emergency agencies in their efforts to protect local residents and rebuild in the days ahead.

In the words of this resolution, the Congress "condemns the acts of arson perpetrated in igniting the Los Angeles County Station Fire," and we extend our appreciation to the volunteers, law enforcement and medical personnel for helping evacuees, sheltering the displaced, and treating injuries in recent weeks.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both send my deepest condolences to the families of the two brave firefighters lost in the "Station Fire," which directly impacted my district, and to thank the thousands of fire and rescue personnel who have fought the largest blaze in Los Angeles County history.

The tragic loss of Fire Captain Tedmund "Ted" Hall, 47, of San Bernardino County, and Firefighter Specialist Arnaldo "Arnie" Quinones, 35, of Palmdale, has hit our communities very hard. These brave men paid the ultimate price to protect lives and property of individuals they had never met before. This kind of heroism serves as a constant reminder of what it means to "sacrifice." Each man and woman who dons a fireman's uniform does so knowing that there is always the possibility that they may not make it home to see their families. But in the face of this adversity, they still serve.

Firefighter Specialist Quinones was a constituent of mine. He lived in Palmdale, California, with his wife Loressa. They are expecting their first child in the next few weeks. My heart goes out to his family. I know his spirit will live on and endure forever within their family.

Fire Captain Ted Hall was a resident of Hesperia, California. He graduated from the Fire Academy in 1983 and served ever since. He was survived by his wife Katherine, and sons Randall, 21, and Steven, 20. My deepest condolences go out to his family as well.

I was on the ground the past couple of weeks and witnessed, first hand, the bravery

of the firefighters and rescue personnel during this fire. As I speak, firefighters have contained 61 percent of a fire that has, thus far, scorched 160,357 acres in the Angeles National forest. Firefighters have greatly limited the loss of property because of their valiant efforts to beat back the flames. The hot, dry conditions of southern California, coupled with swift winds make fighting these fires treacherous. Add in the geographic landscape that the firefighters must deal with and you can begin to understand the risk that every firefighter takes.

For all of the work that I have witnessed and for all that none of us has seen, I thank you. Thank you for putting your lives in danger to protect those you don't know. Thank you for giving us all that comfort, knowing that you are there to help us in our time of need. And thank you to the families that must endure sleepless nights, wondering whether they will see their loved ones walk through the door one more time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 724, a resolution that honors the first responders who are courageously fighting the California wildfires and that pays tribute to the victims who lost their lives.

Hundreds of firefighters throughout the country have been working tirelessly in this effort, risking their lives to put out wildfires so that the lives of others can be protected. Included in this group of brave responders are 20 firefighters from the National Park Service in Hawaii, including William Akima, Jordan Barthold, Tessa Chieves, Andrew Christie, Christopher Derman, Raymond Eselu, Michael Ferguson, Brandon Figueroa, Sean Grossman, William Konanui, Elias Kuamoo, Michael Kyser, Paul Kelihoomalua, Jon Makaika, Nicholas Martin, Sky Mullins, Arnold Nakata, Dexter Pacheco, Jr., Russell Rosario, and Lowe Thomas, who have put themselves in harm's way to battle the raging wildfires. We are proud of your commitment and grateful for your service. We also pay tribute to the two firefighters who died, Captain Tedmund Hall and Specialist Arnaldo Quinones, and hope that the eleven people who have been injured make a full and speedy recovery.

I urge my colleagues to honor those who have served by voting for H. Res. 724.

Mr. TOWNS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 724.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 722) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 722

Whereas on the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and a third into the Pentagon outside of Washington, DC;

Whereas the passengers and crew aboard United Flight 93 fought heroically and sacrificed their own lives by crashing the plane in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, to prevent terrorist hijackers from killing additional innocent Americans;

Whereas nearly 3,000 innocent men, women, and children were murdered in the attacks;

Whereas eight years later, the United States of America continues to mourn the lives lost on September 11, 2001;

Whereas by targeting symbols of American strength and prosperity, the attacks were intended to assail the principles and values of the American people and to intimidate the Nation and its allies;

Whereas the United States remains steadfast in its determination to defeat, disrupt, and destroy terrorist organizations and seeks to harness all elements of national power, including its military, economic, and diplomatic resources, to do so;

Whereas Congress has passed, and the President has signed, numerous laws to protect the Nation, prevent terrorism at home and abroad, assist victims of terrorism, and support, in the field and upon return, the members of the Armed Forces who courageously defend the United States;

Whereas the terrorist attacks that have occurred around the world since September 11, 2001, serve as reminders that the hateful inhumanity of terrorism poses a common threat to the free world and to democratic values;

Whereas the United States has worked cooperatively with the nations of the free world to capture terrorists and bring them to justice;

Whereas the United States remains committed to building strong and productive counterterrorism alliances;

Whereas immediately following September 11, 2001, the United States Armed Forces moved swiftly against al-Qaeda and the Taliban, which the President and Congress had identified as enemies of America;

Whereas in doing so, brave members of the Armed Forces left loved ones in order to defend the Nation; and

Whereas many members of the Armed Forces remain abroad, defending the Nation from further terrorist attacks and continuing to battle al-Qaeda and the Taliban; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes September 11 as both a day to mourn and remember those taken from their loved ones and fellow citizens, and a day for the people of the United States to recommit to the Nation and to each other;

(2) once again extends its deepest sympathies to the friends, families, and loved ones of the innocent victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

(3) honors the heroic service and sacrifices of first responders, law enforcement personnel, State and local officials, volunteers, and others who aided the victims and, in so doing, bravely risked and often sacrificed their own lives and health;

(4) expresses gratitude to the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who continue to stand in solidarity with the United States

against the international scourge of terrorism;

(5) asserts, in the strongest possible terms, that the fight against terrorism is not a war on any nation, any people, or any faith;

(6) recognizes the heroic service of United States personnel, including members of the United States Armed Forces, United States intelligence agencies, and the United States diplomatic service, and their families, who have sacrificed much, including their lives and health, to defend their country against terrorists;

(7) vows that it will continue to take whatever actions are appropriate to defend the people of the United States and to identify, intercept, and defeat terrorists, including providing the United States Armed Forces, United States intelligence agencies, and the United States diplomatic service with the resources and support to effectively accomplish this mission; and

(8) calls on all Americans to renew their devotion to the universal ideals that make the Nation great: freedom, pluralism, equality, and the rule of law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution pays homage to the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and recognizes the anniversary as not only a time of solemn commemoration but also as a demonstration of America's great resolve in combating terrorism. It extends our enduring and deeper condolences to the friends, families and loved ones of the innocent victims, and recognizes the heroism of U.S. service men and women who defend our country today. It honors the Nation's first responders and others whose valiant efforts were a credit to their country on that horrible day, and it honors them as they continue to help keep us safe.

□ 1330

It expresses gratitude to the leaders and citizens of other countries who assisted, supported, and stood by the United States in the aftermath of the attack.

In America's modern and fragmented society, collective memories are few. But each of us remembers where we were on 9/11 when we heard the news. We remember the days of unity that followed when we acted together to protect this country from those who were determined to bring us to our knees. We remember the efforts that Congress, the executive branch, and