

must never stop moving forward, we must also never forget. The victims of 9/11 are not forgotten.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR MASTER-AT-ARMS PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS JOHN DOUANGDARA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master-At-Arms Petty Officer First Class John Douangdara who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Douangdara was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Douangdara was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, two Presidential Unit Citations, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Petty Officer Douangdara is survived by his family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Petty Officer Douangdara an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Douangdara's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY &
MEMORIAL READINGS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families as we read from those who saw and studied what happened during and after the attacks. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the

events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, and together we will make more as Irving and her communities work together to support their American brothers and sisters.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR STEPHEN MATTHEW MILLS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Stephen Matthew Mills who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Mills was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Mills was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Mills is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Mills an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Mills' family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11: FROM A DAY OF TRAGEDY TO
A TRIUMPH OF FREEDOM

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, like every American, I will never forget where I was on the morning of September 11, 2001. As a Member of Congress from Indiana, that day my duties took me to Capitol Hill and to sights and sounds I will never forget.

I witnessed the U.S. Capitol literally hemorrhaging with people running in every direction. I heard the deafening sounds of sirens all around and thunderous booms of military aircraft going supersonic at low altitude. And I saw the columns of mud-brown smoke billowing out of the Pentagon just across the Potomac River.

As the world watched the towers fall in New York City, I witnessed the aftermath of the first attack on our nation's capital since the War of 1812. It was a day when evil triumphed over good and the cunning plans of the enemies of freedom had their moment. They thought they had unleashed violence sufficient to cow a great nation but they were wrong.

What our enemies intended for harm gave birth to a season of national unity and a new generation of heroes. The unity and call to service appeared almost instantly.

At a time of great national division, it is hard to imagine today what Washington DC was like in the hours, weeks and months following September 11th, but the unity of that day did happen. I was there. I saw it.

In the swirl of events that morning, I knew that Congress would need to convene to provide the authority and resources for our national response. As Capitol Hill police officers urged me to leave the grounds, I asked where I could report for duty and was escorted to the office of the Chief of the Capitol Police where the combined leadership of the House and the Senate in both parties was huddled watching the events unfold on several television screens.

When I arrived in the room, the congressional leaders were standing apart, divided by party and by institutions, but as that fateful morning wore on, things changed. Faced with a merciless attack on our nation, the politics of the room dissolved. There were no Republicans in that room, there were no Democrats in that room, just Americans.

I watched as leaders set aside every divisive issue before the Congress and made plans to move resources and programs designed to meet the moment with bipartisan resolve. And that unity would animate the work of the Congress for months following the attack.

But the true legacy of 9-11 cannot be found among political leaders of the day, but in the citizen soldiers and public safety personnel who answered that day with courage and selflessness.

To the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who answered that day with resolve, who did what needed to be done without regard to their own safety, we owe our deepest gratitude. I have prayed with the families and wept at the funerals of Hoosiers who did not shrink from 9-11 but grew into heroes whose names will forever be engraved in the heart of a