

In recent months, much of our national conversation has fixated on what's wrong with America: spiraling debt, soaring unemployment, a poisoned political climate, and perhaps most troublingly, the undeniable sense that we are an increasingly divided people.

Indeed, our country is beset by a crisis of confidence, with faith in our institutions, our leaders and ourselves seemingly at all-time lows.

Coming at this moment of doubt and insecurity, it is my hope that the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks can offer the American people a potent reminder of the defining qualities we revealed in that moment of extreme tragedy: our willingness to sacrifice, our unwillingness to submit or surrender and ultimately our solidarity in the face of great pain and staggering loss.

Ten years ago in New York, as the towers were falling and thousands were fleeing, firefighters and police officers disregarded the dangers and rushed to save the victims.

In the skies above Pennsylvania, a courageous group of passengers fought back against the hijackers and ultimately brought down their own plane, dying so that others might live.

And across America, thousands of young men and women who watched the events of that day unfold on their TV screens decided to enlist, placing themselves in harm's way to keep our country safe.

9/11 was a moment when the American people were tested as never before and yet emerged unbeaten and unbowed. Through our grief, we were united in asserting that the American way of life would go on.

I believe our country's heroes on that day offer up a powerful example to our country's leaders ten years later.

Let us continue to cultivate the spirit of service that motivated the firefighters who responded and the soldiers who enlisted.

Let us use this opportunity to rediscover the togetherness that marked our response to the horrors we witnessed, finding the inspiration to set politics aside and begin solving the problems that matter.

Finally, let us honor the memories of all those who died on that day by working to ensure that America remains a country worthy of their sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
OFFICER JUSTIN SOLLOHUB

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to recognize the life of a proud American hero, Anniston Police Officer Justin Sollohub.

Officer Sollohub of Jacksonville died August 25th due to injuries sustained while on duty.

Like others who have lost their lives serving their communities in the line of duty, words simply cannot express the sense of sadness we all have for Officer Sollohub's family, and the gratitude we feel for his service to the community. He was a selfless servant for the Anniston area, and he will be missed.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his willingness to serve

and protect our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR
MITCHEL RESNICK

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Professor Mitchel Resnick for receiving the Harold W. McGraw, Jr., Prize in Education. He is a Professor of Learning Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, developing new technologies and activities that help children and adults engage in creative learning experiences.

Professor Resnick co-founded the Computer Clubhouse project, an international network of more than 100 after-school learning centers available to young people from low-income communities. It increases their access to technology, which can help improve their educational experience and better prepare them for the workforce. The Computer Clubhouse network has a strong global presence, with over 30 locations in countries as diverse as Mexico, Hungary, Israel, the Palestinian territories, India, and South Africa. It also still proudly serves Massachusetts youth, with a particular emphasis on reaching out to the many communities of Boston.

Professor Resnick's Lifelong Kindergarten research group developed the Programmable Bricks technology which helps children build and program their own robots. His research group also cultivated the Scratch programming environment and online community. It gives young people the tools they need to create their own stories or games and share their work with others online. Professor Resnick has worked for years to make technology fun and accessible—reaching out to students and helping them succeed in the classroom.

Professor Resnick earned his degree in physics from Princeton University. He then went on to MIT where he earned an MS and PhD in computer science. In 2010, Professor Resnick was awarded the Kids@Play prize as the top "Digital Pioneer for Kids." He was also named one of the 30 "most influential people affecting the advancement of technology in education" by Tech & Learning magazine.

I congratulate Professor Resnick on his latest accomplishment and on all of the innovative work he has done over the years. I look forward to his continuing contributions to children's education.

HONORING BROOKLAWN'S 9/11 MEMORIAL AND MONUMENT OF THE
DELAWARE VALLEY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brooklawn's 9/11 Memorial and Monument of the Delaware Valley. This monument is a special tribute to the victims and heroes

of September 11th and a symbol of the spirit and courage of the American people.

Construction of the monument would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of Brooklawn Police Captain Steven Saymon, who bravely responded on 9/11. Capt. Saymon designed the monument and collected the artifacts for the display. The efforts and contributions of local businesses and volunteers too numerous to mention were also invaluable. Their selflessness allowed the monument to be constructed without a penny changing hands.

Completed in just five weeks, the monument features the only local display of artifacts from all three sites: a four ton beam from the World Trade Center; a granite block from the Pentagon wreckage; and soil from the Flight 93 crash site in Pennsylvania. These relics serve as a reminder of the lives lost on that tragic day and the unity shown by American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens behind the 9/11 Memorial and Monument of the Delaware Valley should be recognized for their efforts and dedication in building this tribute to the memory of the tragic events of 9/11. This monument shows the lasting gratitude of the American people to those who gave their lives on that day. I encourage all of my constituents to visit this memorial, and to reflect on that tragic day, 10 years ago.

ON INTRODUCING THE CHILD AND
FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVE-
MENT AND INNOVATION ACT

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act.

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act is bipartisan legislation that extends and makes modest adjustments to the Child Welfare Services and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs that both expire September 30th of this year. Although only a small part of all federal child welfare funding, these programs help ensure that children can remain safely with their own parents or be supported by other caring adults when necessary.

The bill reflects agreements between Republicans and Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee, as well as with our colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee, for reauthorizing these programs. The bill is bipartisan and bicameral, and draws on the findings of several hearings we have had in the Human Resources Subcommittee this year on child welfare issues. Further, this bill does not increase spending or raise the deficit. When the American people ask us to work together across party lines to craft meaningful legislation that is fully paid for, this is the type of bill they have in mind.

In addition, this bill would renew authority for the Department of Health and Human Services to approve child welfare waivers. These waivers have been a valuable tool for States seeking to test new ways of helping children at risk of abuse and neglect, and the renewal of this authority will allow innovation to continue.