

belief—but a common theme has resonated through each national crisis, In God we Trust.

In this moment of national debate over the issue of our day, I encourage the continued support of this simple and historic national motto.

CIVILIAN SERVICE RECOGNITION  
ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 2, 2011*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2061, “The Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011.” This bill authorizes the presentation of a United States flag at the funeral of federal civilian employees who are killed while performing official duties or because of their status as a federal employee. The bill affords the head of an executive agency the ability to present the United States’ flag to an individual who was an employee of the agency and dies of injuries incurred in connection with such individual’s employment with the Federal government, suffered as a result of a criminal act, an act of terrorism, a natural disaster, or other circumstance as determined by the President.

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I value the lives of all American citizens who devote themselves to the public cause. America has a longstanding tradition of honoring soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who have fallen in battle. The debt we owe our nation’s armed service members, especially those who have fallen, cannot be quan-

tified. It is imperative that we recognize and fully appreciate the men and women who risk their lives each day for our freedom.

Just as we recognize our military for their bravery, we must recognize our civil servants for their dedication to this nation. Our country is made great on the backs of millions of federal employees. Much like the men and women of the Armed Forces, the individuals tasked with federal law enforcement and protection put their lives on the line every day.

In March 2011, Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry died from a critical gunshot wound while attempting to apprehend a fugitive wanted for assaulting a police officer and drug possession in St. Louis, MO. Mr. Perry dedicated his life to federal law enforcement, and sacrificed his life to make the country safer for all Americans. Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry was a brave and patriotic civil servant who certainly deserves the honor of the United States flag.

NASA employee David Beverly was employed by the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where I represent the 18th Congressional District. On April 20, 2007 Mr. Beverly was fatally shot in the chest during a hostage ordeal inside the Space Center. An electrical parts specialist, David Beverly fostered innovation and space exploration for the benefit of all Americans.

I have met many Americans who are proud of the work our government does. These sentiments can only be attributed to the civil servants who are the first line of contact to the federal government. Federal workers offer themselves in service to their country. They serve their duties with great pride. Federal employees serve this nation because they believe in their sense of civic duty. Civil servants believe their work provides them with an opportunity to protect and build the nation for fu-

ture generations. They seek to serve their country rather than their own self-interests, and share in the belief that country comes first above all else.

Federal employees are our neighbors; they are husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters. They sacrifice time spent with their families. They work long hours to support and defend the Constitution. They pledge their allegiance to this land of freedom and opportunity. They take the initiative to develop new and innovative programs, techniques, and tools to improve the way the federal government serves its citizens.

In my home state of Texas, approximately 190,000 people work for the federal government. Houston employs approximately 30,000 federal workers. They represent the values that we hold dear to our democracy. These values are grounded in patriotism dedicated to making this nation realize its loyalty to its citizens.

These civil servants make a positive difference in the lives of Americans. They play an essential role in addressing challenging and critical national issues. They create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. They help keep terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. as well as secure and facilitate trade and travel while enforcing immigration and drug laws. These federal agencies care for our troops when they return from battle. The agencies make sure our borders are safe. They make sure the air we breathe and the water we drink are clean. I am extremely proud of the work that these federal employees do. I want them to know that I support them and will forever be indebted to their great deeds.