

North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this solemn day in the history of our Nation, the 11th anniversary of the terror attacks on 9/11, to honor and pay tribute to a North Carolina State Trooper who was killed in the line of duty this past Saturday morning. It was a tragic incident.

Trooper Bobby Gene DeMuth served the State of North Carolina proudly and honorably for 12 years. He was assigned to the Rocky Mount Troop C, District One Highway Patrol.

Trooper DeMuth loved his work. He loved his work as a law enforcement officer. He protected the good of our society from the bad, and he fought to make North Carolina a safer place. Trooper DeMuth's life was tragically cut short, and he was killed while in the line of duty. He was pursuing an individual suspected of some very serious crime. He was serving and protecting.

Following a 20-mile, 30-minute high-speed pursuit that began in our capital city of Raleigh, and ended by the heroic effort of Trooper Bobby Gene DeMuth, the suspect was apprehended.

Tomorrow, Trooper DeMuth will be laid to rest at Inglewood Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. It is a sad day indeed. Trooper DeMuth, like so many of the first responders who passed away 11 years ago, deserves our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for doing what only a select few can do, and that is to protect and defend the public against those who do it harm.

May God bless Trooper Bobby Gene DeMuth, his family, and each and every person that puts himself in harm's way to protect the greater good.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, 11 years ago today, our way of life, our freedom, and our fellow citizens came under attack in a series of ruthless and deliberate attacks. Today, we pause to remember and honor some 3,000 people—moms and dads, friends and neighbors—who lost their lives on that fateful day.

□ 1010

We honor the first responders who chose to run into the burning World Trade towers, putting their own lives at risk to save others, and we honor the lives of the heroes who fought the terrorists on board Flight 97 and successfully prevented the plane from hitting the White House or the U.S. Capitol.

None of us will ever forget that day. None of us will ever forget where we were the moment that we heard that a plane had hit the first World Trade tower, and none of us will ever forget

seeing the second hit. America was shaken but not broken. In those dark hours ahead, Americans came together and responded with one voice.

Today we remember and reflect upon a day that brought us all together as Americans, a day that was our generation's Pearl Harbor, a day that made all of us stop and ask ourselves what's important in our own lives. While many of our Nation's leaders do not agree on how best to run our country, we are all in agreement with pausing to honor and remember those who gave their lives in this senseless attack.

Where there is freedom, there is strength. Terrorism will never triumph. September 11, 2001, reminded all of us of that, and this is a day that we will never forget.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty." God bless America.

I'm glad that we have songs that can capture our spirits and the love that we have for our Nation. I'm reminded of being a child, singing the words, "My country, 'tis of thee." I'm reminded of that day, 9/11, when Members of Congress gathered to stand on the steps of the United States Capitol to sing "God Bless America."

I rise today to pay tribute to Americans and a myriad of persons whose lives remain forever changed because of 9/11. We honor and mourn still those who fell on that day. It was the world, a potpourri of personalities, nationalities, languages, different descriptions, and life stories. It was the world that was in America, a country that welcomes all.

Then, of course, there are those of us who are reminded of the rushing in of heroes and "sheroes," NYPD, civilian volunteers, firefighters, Park Police, Federal workers, all in some way helping to save someone's life, fellow office workers, dishwashers, restaurant workers. Some died so that others might live.

I remember very clearly where I was here in the United States Capitol, having a meeting with one of the Cabinet members of the President at that time, deeply involved in work regarding small businesses, going on with the normal daily responsibilities, Members who work on legislation, constituency issues, and oversight over the government.

There was a rattling outside and, of course, phones started ringing, with the technology of that time. We indicated that we were still in the meeting and did not answer until someone banged on the door and said, I don't know what is happening, but you must get out.

Without panic, but certainly with great concern, as you entered the hall-

ways, people were rushing, rushing to come out of this building. As the rumors began to fly or the words began to fly about the White House, the State Department, then, of course, there was the billowing smoke that one could see from the Pentagon. It was real. It was something that we had never, ever seen. Maybe for those who had been in wars preceding us in far-away lands, but not in the 20th century on the soil of the United States of America, or the 21st century.

I stand today with great honor for those who died, those who died in trying to save others and those who did. I am grateful today that we have the opportunity to be able to say thank you, though sadly, to families who remain, to those who now stand in New York reading names, to those who are at the Pentagon who still have the piercing feeling of loss, and certainly those in Pennsylvania, the family members, the surrounding community.

I am grateful that in the last couple of days we finally acknowledged that there is something to those who breathed the smoke, and they are now going to be included for the entity that provides health care for those who were impacted by 9/11 toxic smoke. It took us too long. I'm glad we passed legislation to help the first responders, firefighters, police, and others who suffered catastrophic illnesses after they went in to help those who could not help themselves.

I remember drafting legislation and introducing legislation for the latchkey children, for many of us don't remember that so many children were left at home and no one came home to see them on that fateful day, 9/11. Children now read the names of their parents or loved ones, grandparents. Children grew up without a family member because of the heinous horror, hatred, contempt, and violence.

I hope this Nation on this day comes closer together, that we come together as independents, Republicans, Democrats, and nothing, that we stand as one Nation being able to be reminded of the greatest Nation in the world.

God bless America, for I will say that throughout my life whatever the ups and downs that we may have, this country is great. As I travel around on behalf of the United States of America, visiting those who fought in Iraq and who fought in Afghanistan, I see that they are great because they were willing to sacrifice at the call of the Commander in Chief and the call of their Nation.

Today I come on this floor to honor all of those who were touched by 9/11, and to remind all of us as Members of Congress and the Nation, never yield to the weakness that we are not great. Always our democracy, our love of God, makes us that.

God bless America.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we return to Capitol Hill, ending the summer recess with strong conflicting emotions. Today is the 11th anniversary of 9/11, the horrific attacks that rocked the Nation and were especially poignant for us on Capitol Hill.

As representatives of the government we had sworn to uphold and defend, these senseless, despicable acts exposed a real vulnerability. We all remember what we felt as we were watching the Twin Towers collapse, the plane crashing into the Pentagon, and then yet another plane going down in a lonely field in Pennsylvania, destined for us here on Capitol Hill.

People came together in an outpouring of support for one another and for our Nation. There was a sense of resolve, unparalleled at any time since the cowardly attacks on Pearl Harbor.

The response of the government since then, however, has been somewhat mixed. We have protected the United States so far against any repeat attack, but at great cost. We have thrown money at the problem. We have had significant bureaucratic overreach, particularly in terms of personal liberties. We will be paying the costs of the horribly misguided war in Iraq for generations to come.

After an original, terrific response routing the Taliban in Afghanistan, we took our eye off the ball. We allowed Osama bin Laden almost another decade of life and mischief. Later, we were sucked back into Afghanistan on the terms of the Taliban and al Qaeda, not on our terms.

Now, this is not merely a Republican problem, although George Bush and Republicans were in charge and made some of the worst mistakes. There was much bipartisan support for the excesses.

□ 1020

To this day, there is bipartisan confusion about the best path forward to protect the Nation while protecting civil liberties and the budget for the situation today and not the conditions of September 10, 2001. My wish for Congress and for the candidates span out on the campaign trails, is that we mark this anniversary with a commitment to allow a little common sense and good will to enter into the political discourse.

This can be an emotional job. I was thinking about the emotions that I expressed, having a chance 15 years ago to go through the hectoring and interfering military on Aung San Suu Kyi's compound in Burma, where she was held under house arrest by the dictatorship. My son, daughter, and I spent an amazing afternoon with this extraordinary woman. I could scarcely imagine then, what will happen next week when we will be awarding that courageous woman the Congressional Medal of Honor here in the Capitol and then she will return to Burma as a member of their nation's parliament.

The success of this woman, together with the steely resolve of the American public after 9/11, ought to give us all pause and, hopefully, a renewed commitment to do our job right. Since 9/11, the challenges and circumstances have evolved. We have greater challenges in terms of security, climate instability, natural disaster, and our own economic vulnerability. It's a tall order to deal with them; but, hopefully, we will all be inspired by the example of Aung San Suu Kyi standing up to the Burmese dictatorship and ultimately gaining a measure of success—and, of course, by the American public in their response to horrific attacks of 9/11.

It's time today, for the politicians to do their job: to listen, to speak the truth, and to lead.

SMART SECURITY: LEADING WITH OUR COMPASSION, NOT OUR MILITARY FIREPOWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, a few minutes from now, Members of the House and the Senate will head to the Capitol steps for a moment of remembrance to honor those who were killed in the attacks on September 11, 2001—September 11, 2001, a day that will forever be seared into the memory of American citizens and the world.

Eleven years later, Mr. Speaker, spouses still grieve; children still feel the void; parents are still devastated by the loss of their children. It was a tragedy for individual families and for the entire Nation. One of the lingering tragedies of that day is that it led to policy decisions with terrible consequences that we're still living with today. Over the last decade-plus, violence and mayhem have just led to more violence and mayhem.

Our continued military occupation of Afghanistan has not brought the stability. It has not brought security. It has not brought a strong democracy to that country. Afghanistan remains one of the poorest and most dangerous places on Earth. The Taliban has not been driven into oblivion. The terrorist threats continue. And according to a New York Times article this past weekend, even U.S. commanders are admitting that the Taliban remains "resilient" while al Qaeda is "evolving" and "adapting."

Mr. Speaker, while we in the House adjourned for the month of August, there was no recess for our troops. In fact, since we were last in session, another 60 U.S. servicemembers died in Afghanistan. Countless more suffered wounds to the body and to the brain. And then there are the Afghan civilians, many of them children, who are being killed every single day. How do we tell the families of these children that this is all for a good and just cause? We can't.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to stop conducting national security policy on the principles of revenge and retaliation and on the false hope that we are making it better. The right way to secure and ensure security is to put America's best foot forward, to lead with our compassion and not our military power.

That's what my SMART Security platform is all about. It puts development and diplomacy front and center, and it makes war a last resort. It is based on a commitment to improving the lives of Afghan people, alleviating power, creating economic opportunity, rebuilding infrastructure, improving education, and attacking public health problems in that area.

We can't do this with the military surge. We can only do it with a civilian surge—a surge of experts, of aid workers, of technical experts, from engineers to midwives. Of course, our development agencies are doing this kind of work, and they're doing the best they can possibly do, but not nearly the scale that's necessary to make this possible. Compared to billions of dollars every month that we spend on the war, we're investing just a tiny fraction of that on humanitarian work that is so badly needed.

Public opinion has turned dramatically against this war, and yet our most visible leaders continue to lag behind the people that elected them. The President of the United States says he will end this war in 2014, which is a good goal, but it is not nearly soon enough. His opponent, on the other hand, in the most important speech of his life a few weeks ago, didn't see fit to even mention Afghanistan—not even once.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we gather on the steps of the Capitol, as I bow my head, it will be in remembrance of those who died 11 years ago today, and it will also be with a fervent prayer of hope that we can honor their memory by finally ending the war in Afghanistan and finally bringing our troops home.

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, 11 years ago today, Americans found themselves under attack. We watched with shock and horror as hijacked passenger airplanes were flown both into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. We all remember what we were doing that Tuesday morning when 2,996 innocent Americans were killed in those tragic and unthinkable acts. We also remember the heroic actions of the passengers aboard United Flight 93, who courageously fought the hijackers on their plane and, sacrificing their own lives, ultimately saved countless others. Courage and bravery have long been traits demonstrated by our fellow