

Everybody remembers, if they're of age, where they were at that time. I was sitting in my office at One Shoreline Plaza in Corpus Christi. When that second plane hit the Twin Towers, I got a feeling in the pit of my stomach that I remember from when I was told my father died when I was a child. It was a devastating moment.

But we cannot let our fear guide us. We've got to be strong, we've got to be vigilant, and we cannot let the terrorists win.

Let's take a moment right now until I'm gavelled out of time to remember and pray for those victims and their families and go forward with our life and reflect how we can do what we need to do so the terrorists don't win.

CR EXTENSION

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is, indeed, a sober day of reflection on the events of 9/11. Twelve years ago today, I was on the floor of the House when we got word of the first attacks.

It unleashed a series of horrific events, but those events continue to this day. There is another tragedy that is occurring in Iraq and Afghanistan—the thousands of Iraqi and Afghan nationals whose lives are at risk because they helped Americans as guides, drivers, and interpreters.

That is why we developed a special immigrant visa program—to help these people trapped in the country against those with long memories who seek revenge. But this program is seriously broken.

There are thousands of men and women on this waiting list, some who have died while they wait to have the paperwork processed. The State Department won't even tell us how many are on the waiting list. It is seriously broken. Congress can't fix it. But at least we can put in the CR an extension so that the program doesn't expire at the end of the month and their lives lost.

VOW NEVER TO FORGET 9/11

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 12th anniversary of the September 11 attacks on our great Nation. Though on that day cowardly terrorists hijacked the Islamic religion and used it to justify their murderous acts, what we will remember most is America's strength and resolve.

In the aftermath, Americans of all backgrounds and faiths united as one. Servicemembers and first responders ran toward—not away from—the wreckage. Our Nation continues to set an example to the world as a land of opportunity, tolerance, and independence, and in keeping with our founding document, the promise still of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, as we witness the construction of One World Trade Center, we see more than a building rise up through the New York City skyline. It is truly representative of the resilience of the American people, which remains unbroken despite these hardships, challenges, and unthinkable acts.

So today, and every day, we stand tall as Americans as we vow never to forget.

THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we mark the 12th anniversary of 9/11, a day that changed America forever.

We remember those who died. We lost close to 3,000 people on 9/11, but many thousands more lost their health and many are suffering from cancer. This body passed the 9/11 health and compensation bill to help them, and I thank my colleagues.

Since that day, much has changed and much has been restored. Ten million people have visited Memorial Plaza that opened in 2011. The 9/11 museum opens next spring. The 104-story Freedom Tower opens next year.

But there are still men and women who suffer—or will suffer—from the effects of that massive toxic stew that enveloped Lower Manhattan for months.

So, on this special day, I would like to remind everyone that the final deadline to register for the benefits under the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund is October 3. Please let everyone who is eligible know—registering will cost you nothing and may help you and your family tremendously.

THANKING THE FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is 9/11. We've all talked about it.

When I think about 9/11 I mostly think about—I think about the victims, obviously, but the first responders who were also victims—firemen and policemen in New York City and that area who rushed into harm's way and lost their lives trying to protect others.

We appreciate it and thank those heroic fire people and police people. But sometimes I don't think we keep them in our minds like we should. They're public employees, they're middle class Americans. They're having a tough time, and we need to always appreciate the sacrifices they make to people that keep our liberty here in this country and keep us safe from crime and from horrific circumstances.

I thank the first responders. I appreciate what they did on 9/11 and what they do every day.

REMEMBERING 9/11

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we all have extremely vivid memories of this day 12 years ago.

Personally, I remember seeing the clouds of smoke from the Pentagon through my office window and the panicked feeling I had as I searched all day for my children who live in New York City but couldn't reach.

I recently saw the emptiness that we all felt captured at Memorial Plaza. We can honor those we lost by remembering that, after the immense tragedy of that day, we rose as a Nation, united in the belief that there was no obstacle we could not overcome together.

Have we lost that spirit?

Many would say that this Congress has been stalled on the best way to lead this Nation, focusing too much on what divides us, losing sight of what brings us together.

It is my hope that we will put aside our differences and come together for the American people. Let us use the sad, traumatic reminder of today and remember that we are all Americans and we all want what is best for our families, our communities, and our country.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise asking my colleagues to join together to end the sequester.

Many constituents and many business owners have expressed this question over the last 6 months: "What is Congress going to do about ending the sequester cuts?"

My district has military and Federal contractors that are impacted by these cuts. Head Start programs are serving fewer children, while nutrition programs that serve seniors such as Meals on Wheels are also being cut. Sequester affects our economy and the most vulnerable of our Nation.

That is why we need a balanced approach to repeal sequestration. We need to reach a compromise on a real plan and work out the differences between the House and Senate budgets to end sequester cuts.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DERRICK LIONEL MARTIN

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Derrick Lionel Martin. Derrick was a son of Hawaii, born and raised on the island of Oahu. At an early age, Derrick displayed the intelligence, integrity, and vision needed to be an exemplary American.