

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

9/11 MEMORIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The National 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center Act. This legislation would designate the site of the 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center as a national memorial—providing it the national recognition and support it deserves as a lasting symbol of the lives we lost and the resilience with which our nation came together and pledged to emerge stronger in search of a more peaceful world.

Like many New Yorkers, I know and have felt firsthand the lasting impacts of September 11, 2001. Among the almost 3,000 lives we lost that day was that of my cousin, John Moran, a second-generation firefighter and FDNY Battalion Chief. Not a day goes by that I don't think of my cousin and of the thousands of family members and loved ones we lost that day. But I also bear in mind each day the vow we made as a nation to never forget what happened and to protect the spirit of camaraderie that emerged from the attacks.

The 9/11 Memorial serves as a place where we can remember and honor the brave lives we lost, as well as that spirit of unity and overcoming with which we moved forward as a nation. Because of the place the events of September 11, 2001 hold in our collective national history, the federal government should play a role in preserving this space and keeping what it represents at the forefront of our collective memory. By recognizing the 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center as a national memorial, federal resources will be available to ensure the maintenance, security and accessibility of this site so that all people will have the opportunity to remember and honor our heroes. It is our duty to ensure that this sacred site and tribute receives the national upkeep and recognition it deserves.

September 11th changed our lives as individuals and as Americans. We must actively seek to remind our nation of the resolution and sacrifice of the survivors, the victims, their families, and of our first responders. And we must also enshrine the courage and strength with which we stood up to hatred. Acting in a bipartisan manner to designate the 9/11 Memorial as a national memorial is an important step in this direction.

STANDING TOGETHER

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a statement on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi

Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Rabbi Zoberman asked me to submit the following remarks:

Our one God of life's precious blessings in a precarious world who created us to be one family, gloriously diverse and gratefully united, so movingly manifest in our beloved Hampton Roads and in this our Standing Together for our sake as well as Heaven's.

I am proudly holding my Jewish people's most sacred possession, the Torah Scroll. This one from Brno, Czech Republic, has acquired an added dimension of the sacred. A survivor of the Shoah, Holocaust, number 526 of the Czech Memorial Scrolls, it lost its original congregation and community in the Kingdom of the Night. Hatred of the "other" consumed eleven million innocent lives of Jews and Gentiles. The towering Torah's teachings of loving-kindness, is the very foundation of the three great monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Joined by the three great Eastern religions they have served as humanity's conscience and civilization's journey forward.

We are taught in the Torah's inerasable lessons begrudged by humanity's enemies, burning the Torah and its people that each human being is equally though uniquely created in the Divine image, that we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We are reminded time and again that we, who were rejected and enslaved in Pharaoh's Egypt, ought to embrace the stranger, namely the "other" and the refugee, as members of God's family and our own.

The Exodus' soaring saga of liberation uplifted Dr. King—whose celebration we just observed—to remind America to live up to the Pilgrims' vision of fleeing refugees, walking in the shoes of the Biblical Israelites while yearning for a new land free from the persecution of the "other." Freedom of and from religion has allowed America to flourish like no other nation, immeasurably benefitting from the greatest human diversity anywhere. Diversity is divine.

We must remember the Jewish refugees, including so many children, fleeing Nazism, who were denied entry to these promising shores. In 1939, the SS St. Louis ship, with its desperate human cargo from Hamburg, Germany, was tragically turned away. I address you from the midst of the children in Europe's Displaced Persons Camps following World War II and the Holocaust. There I spent my formative early childhood, there my family along with a multitude of uprooted survivors and homeless refugees on the run, gradually learned to believe again in human goodness and renew our trust in God after such heavy genocidal losses.

Today's refugees too are knocking on the door of "the land of the free and the home of the brave." The Syrian ones, the most vulnerable, are heroically escaping their genocidal regime. They too are in displaced persons camps with their children's bodies washed ashore on European beaches. How can we remain silent? Those allowed to enter following a most careful vetting process, will become along with their progeny, patriotic and tax-paying Americans. Steve Jobs' biological father was a Syrian immigrant. Refugees and immigrants keep alive the American dream for us all, ensuring that America may ever be a blessing.

We reassure our dear Muslim neighbors, colleagues, and friends, which we unreservedly appreciate their indispensable contributions without which we would be diminished. Barbaric ISIS targets them too and they fight it with fellow Americans. We all stand together in the ark of survival with a shared future and fate. Indeed, we mutually and joyfully are our sisters and brothers' keepers. We cannot be separated. Let us be mindful of the danger of poisonous demagoguery to our enviable American democracy and inclusive way of life, as well as to our ethical standing. Words and lives do matter. Words and lives are inextricably connected.

Let us reaffirm in this grand gathering the infinite value of each and every one of us. Both our differences and commonalities are precious to our common Creator. They should be the same for us. Finally, let us pledge to never ever abandon our deepest mooring and most sacred proposition that God's divinity and human dignity are indivisible. Shalom, Salaam, Peace.

HONORING CARNEY CAMPION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Carney Campion, who passed away in San Rafael, California, in December of last year. An executive with the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District for over two decades, Mr. Campion was a devoted civil servant, a respected and accessible manager, and an ardent advocate for improving public transit.

A lifelong Californian, Mr. Campion was born in Santa Rosa in 1928, and graduated from UC Berkeley in 1950 with a degree in Personnel and Public Administration. He held management roles with the Redwood Region Conservation Council and the Redwood Empire Association before joining the Golden Gate Bridge District. In 1998, at the age of 70, he retired from his general manager role, a position he held for 15 years. Following his retirement, he remained active throughout Marin County, including with the Marin County Cultural Services Commission and the Marin County Fair.

Mr. Campion was a measured leader navigating an often chaotic environment. During his tenure, he oversaw expansion in ferry, bus and rail services, labor negotiations, a seismic retrofit of the Golden Gate Bridge, and other transportation modernization efforts. He is remembered by staff as a genuine, thoughtful leader dedicated to improving services for residents and visitors across the Bay Area.

Mr. Campion's leadership has impacted countless lives throughout our region, with effects that can still be felt today, more than 15 years after his retirement. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to Mr. Campion today and express our deepest condolences to his surviving wife, Kathryn, six children, 21 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

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