

cow the people of this mighty imperial city . . . Little does he know the spirit of the British nation or the tough fiber of the Londoners . . . who have been bred to value freedom far above their lives."

So true of America. Little do these petty tyrants and murderers know the spirit of the American people or the tough fiber of the New Yorkers, our defense workers, or the civilians who may have spared further casualties by taking down the hijackers and their own plane above Pennsylvania.

Firefighters and police officers by the hundreds rushing into the collapsing wreckage of the World Trade Center to rescue the victims, many, God bless them, so many, losing their lives in the process. One firefighter, injured and lying in the hospital, telling the Governor of New York: "What d'ya expect? We're New Yorkers." God, they make me proud.

American doctors, nurses, search and rescue teams from all over the country, by car, bus and train, using any means to come to the wounded and offer their help. Citizens all over the country lining up to donate blood, so much blood, in lines up to four hours long. Children outside the federal building in Oklahoma, site of another terrorist attack, putting their Teddy Bears in a box to be sent to the children in New York—now orphaned. "We just want them to know they will be all right," an Oklahoma boy says as he drops his bear in the box.

The face of this tyrant is new, and yet not so new. Like Hitler, he abhors a free society and democratic institutions. He is willing to kill innocent men, women and children to further his perverse aims; there are no means too inhuman, no tactic too appalling to further his ends. He thinks we are weak, because we do not tell our citizens what to think, how to act, whom to worship. Because we tolerate dissent. He does not realize this is our strength. And he has awoken the sleeping giant.

"What he has done," as Churchill had said, "is to kindle a fire in [American] hearts here and all over the world which will glow long after all traces of the conflagrations he has caused in [New York, Washington and Pennsylvania] have been removed."

What these petty tyrants do not understand, have never understood, is that for all our rough-and-tumble public discourse, we are one people, acting under one President, and capable of greater single-mindedness of purpose in times of adversity than any repressive regime. These acts of terror will not divide us. All Americans—young, old, Democrats, Republicans, men, women, Christians, Moslems and Jews—are united against the common foe.

We will not be turned against each other. We will not tolerate acts of violence against Moslem Americans, many of whom lost their lives, serve as police and firefighters in the rescue effort, and all of whom are equally repelled at these atrocities. We will not relinquish our freedoms of speech, assembly and religion, nor sacrifice our precious right of privacy or way of life. "The price of freedom is high, and Americans have always paid it," President Kennedy said. We pay it still.

This is the Battle of America. The enemy may be new, but the fight has always been the same. Our government, our democracy is predicated on basic human freedoms, on the right of the governed to control their own national destiny. The civil war tested whether

any nation so conceived could long endure. We have endured. We will go on, with growing confidence that we can fight terrorism wherever we find it, and strengthened by the conviction that the generation of Americans now being tested will not falter or flag.

PROVIDING FOR EXPEDITED PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS KILLED OR INJURED IN CONNECTION WITH TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this President, this nation and this legislation. The devastating and cowardly attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, the American people, and free democratic societies everywhere must be responded to with the swift justice and mighty force of the United States military and our allies. We must continue to stand together to make it through this most difficult time. We must also support the victims, families and the heroic search and rescue teams currently working tirelessly in New York as well as the on-going investigations of these deplorable acts. Yesterday, we voted for the Victims of Terrorism Relief Act of 2001 to provide tax relief for the victims of this heinous attack on our soil. In addition, we passed legislation that will expedite payments of certain benefits to public safety officers. These are just two of the necessary steps to ensure the largest possible benefit to the families of those who have paid the greatest possible price. Today, we must focus on the vast work that remains to be done. None of this, however, will be feasible without significant resources that are dedicated to their intended purpose.

As we enter into a potentially prolonged attack on terrorism and its sponsors throughout the world, we must be prepared for the consequences of this significant decision. We must take steps to ensure that the resources are available to secure our skies and protect our people. These steps must include funding for fortifying our military, upgrading our intelligence, and security needs, while simultaneously supporting those who are suffering from the effects of the devastation of a few short days ago. The supplemental funding that we are voting on will support our military, rebuild our city, and assist those who are suffering. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues, united with our President and in defiance of those who believe that they can threaten our freedom. I support this legislation and pray for the victims, the rescue workers and all Americans.

TERRORIST ATTACKS

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the cowardly act of violence

that besieged our nation yesterday. Today, we stand as a nation resolved to continue our way of life. National symbols of power were shaken, but the true strength of the country, our people, remain solid.

We will act swiftly to determine those responsible for this cowardice and retaliate against the perpetrators. We continue to support our Commander in Chief as he leads us through this truly horrible time for our nation.

I commend those citizens of all walks of life who became America's heroes yesterday as they worked to rescue the injured and console families of victims. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are injured, those who lost their lives, and those who are courageously involved in rescue efforts. We will come together as a nation by giving blood, donating our time and services to help the afflicted, and flying our American flags proudly.

Members of Congress and citizens across the country today refuse to be frightened and demoralized as we attempt to pick up the shattered pieces of our lives and restore some semblance of normalcy to our daily routines.

However, this indeed is a dark time for America, which has generated grave memories that will last forever. What is important now is that we face and learn from this solemn chapter in our history. We must reassess our national security apparatus and come to terms with those lapses in security that allowed these terrorists to take root on U.S. soil. But, make no mistake, the rest of the world should know—and know so resoundingly—that the United States will not tolerate cowardly acts of terrorism.

I agree wholeheartedly with the President that we will make no distinction between those who committed this barbaric act of cowardice and those who harbor and give them sustenance. All of the perpetrators of these dastardly deeds must come to feel the full force of our power—unleashed in all of its awesome might.

Surely, the wounds inflicted upon our national conscience by this horrendous act of terrorism are deep. However, while we have suffered a tremendous loss, our resolve to confront and defeat the evil that brought about this tragedy has only been strengthened.

I stand behind the President at this moment of national sorrow. As a nation we are united in our unyielding determination to prevail against terrorism and those who support it.

TRIBUTE TO TERCERA IGLESIA  
BAUTISTA ESPAÑOLA

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tercera Iglesia Bautista Española, a treasured Bronx institution and a historic house of worship that celebrated its Centennial anniversary September 15, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Tercera Iglesia Bautista Española was founded between the years of 1900 and 1902. As one of the first Baptist churches of its kind, serving a largely Hispanic congregation, it has become an invaluable part of Hispanic-American history and American history in general. Located on Alexander Avenue, the church stands as a beacon of true beauty in the heart of the south Bronx.