

prevent these ugly acts of terrorism against our country.

Mr. Speaker, terrorism is everyone's enemy and a civilized world needs to ban together to fight terrorism. Here in America, we have had September 11; but 6,000 miles away, the brave people of Israel every day have to cope with ongoing acts of terror. The other day two horrific suicide bombings killed nearly 20 people, and 2 weeks ago, when I was in Israel, a bus bombing killed 22 people, including 5 Americans, 3 of my constituents.

When I go back to New York every week and look at the New York skyline and do not see the World Trade Center, I feel our city is not yet whole and something is missing. It has been 2 years since September 11, 2001, but I feel like I have aged 20 years since then. In my office is a two-page spread from the New York Times. It has pictures of the 300-plus firefighters who died that day in New York. Most of the pictures are of young men who are the same age as my daughter. One of them is the picture of a friend's son, Christian Regenhart.

When I look at the faces of these brave people, I have often thought what can I, as a Congressman, do to ensure this never happens again, and I think we need to make sure that the funding is there so our first responders can respond, and we need to make sure that the brave people who protect us have all the resources they need. We need to also make sure that the people who lost their lives that day are never forgotten. In a few minutes, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and I are going to talk about the True American Heroes Act of 2003.

The bill posthumously awards Congressional Gold Medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and who perished, and to people aboard United Airlines Flight 93. We owe it to ourselves and our families and our countrymen to ensure this never happens again.

THE UNCONQUERABLE AMERICAN SPIRIT

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the world reflects this morning upon an act of barbarism that remains too horrific for words. Two years ago, a gang of murderers shattered our complacency regarding the reach and resolve of the international merchants of hate.

Nevertheless, we also learned about the resiliency of our Nation on that awful day. When terrorists attacked the heart of America's financial and military centers, they forgot about the heart of the American people. Our country's strength lies not in its institutions, but in the courage, character and the determination of the people who built them.

On this somber anniversary, we honor the memory of the husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters who lost their lives in this heinous attack, as well as the heroes who sacrificed everything to save them.

As we remember the trauma and grief of September 11, 2001, may we continue to discover the seeds of hope and the endurance of the unconquerable American spirit.

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it was the brother of a man from The Dalles, the son of parents from Pendleton that perished, the extent of the tragedy that struck America, the terrible terrorist acts of September 11 spread like tentacles across the country.

While our innocence was shattered that day, America's resolve and our commitment and unity was invigorated and strengthened. We have responded domestically in strengthening our security. We have responded internationally in building coalitions to take the battle to the terrorists. We have had great victories. We face great challenges.

Together as a country, and as a Congress under the leadership of our President, we are making a difference for our first responders at home and to secure our borders, to make air traffic safer and air travel safer, and to root out the terrorists where they are, instead of waiting for them to come back here. We have seized 1,400 bank accounts and \$200 million, two-thirds of al Qaeda's leadership were killed, and 42 of 55 of Saddam Hussein's top advisors, strategists and planners of hate are no longer a problem. We all know there is more work to do. As a Congress and as a country, we must resolve to do that work, to do it with a clear focus and a great unity which befits this great country of ours. Together we are Americans, and may we ask for God's blessing for our leadership and our future.

TRUE AMERICAN HEROES ACT OF 2003

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of September 10, 2003, I call up the bill (H.R. 1538) to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and perished and to the people aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who helped resist the hijackers and caused the plane to crash, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Spirit of America, recognizing the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and

for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of H.R. 1538 is as follows:

H.R. 1538

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "True American Heroes Act of 2003".

TITLE I—MEDALS FOR RESPONDERS AND RESISTERS

SEC. 101. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS WHO RESPONDED TO THE ATTACKS ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AND PERISHED.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—In recognition of the bravery and self-sacrifice of officers, emergency workers, and other employees of State and local government agencies, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and of the United States Government and others, who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, and perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001 (including those who are missing and presumed dead), the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design for each such officer, emergency worker, employee, or other individual to the next of kin or other personal representative of each such officer, emergency worker, employee, or other individual.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary to be emblematic of the valor and heroism of the men and women honored.

(c) DETERMINATION OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the number of medals to be presented under this section and the appropriate recipients of the medals after consulting with appropriate representatives of Federal, State, and local officers and agencies and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

(d) DUPLICATIVE GOLD MEDALS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DUTY STATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike duplicates in gold of the gold medals struck pursuant to subsection (a) for presentation to each of the following, for permanent display in the respective offices, houses, stations, or places of employment:

(A) The Governor of the State of New York.

(B) The Mayor of the City of New York.

(C) The Commissioner of the New York Police Department, the Commissioner of the New York Fire Department, the head of emergency medical services for the City of New York, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

(D) Each precinct house, fire house, emergency response station, or other duty station or place of employment to which each person referred to in subsection (a) was assigned on September 11, 2001, for display in each such place in a manner befitting the memory of such persons.

(e) DUPLICATE BRONZE MEDALS.—Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under subsection (a) at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,

and overhead expenses) and the cost of the gold medal.

(f) USE OF THE UNITED STATES MINT AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK.—It is the sense of the Congress that the medals authorized under this section should be struck at the United States Mint at West Point, New York, to the greatest extent possible.

SEC. 102. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS FOR PEOPLE ABOARD UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93 WHO HELPED RESIST THE HIJACKERS AND CAUSED THE PLANE TO CRASH.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) On September 11, 2001, United Airlines Flight 93, piloted by Captain James Dahl, departed from Newark International Airport at 8:01 a.m. on its scheduled route to San Francisco, California, with 7 crew members and 38 passengers on board.

(2) Shortly after departure, United Airlines Flight 93 was hijacked by terrorists.

(3) At 10:37 a.m. United Airlines Flight 93 crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

(4) Evidence indicates that people aboard United Airlines Flight 93 learned that other hijacked planes had been used to attack the World Trade Center in New York City and resisted the actions of the hijackers on board.

(5) The effort to resist the hijackers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 appears to have caused the plane to crash prematurely, potentially saving hundreds or thousands of lives and preventing the destruction of the White House, the Capitol, or another important symbol of freedom and democracy.

(6) The leaders of the resistance aboard United Airlines Flight 93 demonstrated exceptional bravery, valor, and patriotism, and are worthy of the appreciation of the people of the United States.

(b) PRESENTATION OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS AUTHORIZED.—In recognition of heroic service to the Nation, the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design for each passenger or crew member on board United Airlines Flight 93 who is identified by the Attorney General as having aided in the effort to resist the hijackers on board the plane to the next of kin or other personal representative of each such individual.

(c) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike gold medals of a single design with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck under subsection (b) at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the bronze medals (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses) and the cost of the gold medals.

SEC. 103. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS WHO RESPONDED TO THE ATTACKS ON THE PENTAGON AND PERISHED.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—In recognition of the bravery and self-sacrifice of officers, emergency workers, and other employees of the United States Government, who responded to the attacks on the Pentagon Washington, D.C. and perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001 (including those who are missing and presumed dead) the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design for each such officer, emergency worker, or employee to the next of kin

or other personal representative of each such officer, emergency worker, or employee.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike gold medals of a single design with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) DETERMINATION OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the number of medals to be presented under this section and the appropriate recipients of the medals after consulting with the Secretary of Defense and any other appropriate representative of Federal, State, and local officers and agencies.

SEC. 104. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck under this title are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

**TITLE II—SPIRIT OF AMERICA
COMMEMORATIVE COINS**

SEC. 201. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) On September 11, 2001, the United States suffered the worst act of terrorism in its history.

(2) The more than 6,000 people who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks that occurred in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001, will not be forgotten.

(3) Hundreds of emergency personnel responded heroically to the crisis and lost their lives as a result.

(4) People from everywhere in the United States responded to the crisis with an outpouring of support for the victims of the terrorist attacks and their families.

(5) The civilized world stands with strength and fortitude in opposition to the cowardly terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.

(6) It is essential to remember not only the tragedy of the attacks, but also the strength and resolve demonstrated by the people of the United States in the aftermath of the attacks.

(7) The minting of coins in commemoration of the Spirit of America will pay tribute to the countless heroes who risked their lives during the terrorist attacks and in their aftermath so that others may live and to a united people whose belief in freedom, justice, and democracy has never swayed.

SEC. 202. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the Spirit of America, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this title referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) \$50 GOLD COINS.—Such number of 50 dollar coins as the Secretary determines under subsection (b), which shall—

- (A) weigh 1 ounce;
- (B) have a diameter of 1.287 inches; and
- (C) contain 91.67 percent gold and 8.33 percent alloy.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Such number of 1 dollar coins as the Secretary determines appropriate to meet demand, which shall—

- (A) weigh 26.73 grams;
- (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(3) HALF DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Such number of half dollar coins as the Secretary determines appropriate to meet demand, which shall—

- (A) weigh 11.34 grams;
- (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and
- (C) be minted to the specifications for half dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMBER OF GOLD COINS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The number of gold coins minted and issued under this title shall

equal the sum of 25,000 and the number determined under paragraph (2).

(2) DETERMINATION OF NUMBER.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General of the United States and the Governors of New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia shall determine the number of innocent individuals confirmed or presumed to have been killed as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, and shall identify such individuals. The Secretary, under subsection (a)(1), shall mint and issue a number of 50 dollar coins equal to the number of such individuals.

(c) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this title shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this title shall be considered to be numismatic items.

(e) SOURCES OF BULLION.—For the purpose of minting coins under this title, the Secretary may only use metals that are from natural deposits in the United States or any territory or possession of the United States.

(f) SPECIAL TREATMENT UNDER EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(A) The limitations contained in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of section 5112(m) of title 31, United States Code, and section 5134(f)(1)(B) of such title have well served, and continue to serve, their purpose of bringing greater stability to the markets for commemorative coins, maximizing demand and participation in such programs, and ensuring that such programs have a broad base of private support and are not used as the primary means of fundraising by organizations that are the recipients of surcharges.

(B) The shocking circumstances of September 11, 2001, the broad base of public interest in showing the Spirit of America and participating in the raising of funds for the victims of the crimes committed on that date, and the importance of implementing this coin program as quickly as possible, notwithstanding the limitations contained in such paragraphs, justify exempting the coins produced under this title from such limitations.

(2) EXEMPTION.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 5112(m) of title 31, United States Code, and section 5134(f)(1)(B) of such title shall not apply to coins authorized under this title.

SEC. 203. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this title shall be emblematic of the tragic events that occurred at the Pentagon, in New York City, and in Pennsylvania, on September 11, 2001.

(b) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this title there shall be—

- (1) a designation of the value of the coin;
- (2) an inscription of the date "September 11, 2001" (and such coin shall bear no other date); and
- (3) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(c) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this title shall be selected—

- (1) by the Secretary after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts; and
- (2) reviewed by the citizens advisory committee established under section 5135 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 204. STRIKING AND ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), coins minted under this title shall be issued in uncirculated quality.

(2) GOLD COINS.—50 dollar coins minted under section 202(a)(1) shall be issued only in proof quality.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this title.

(2) CLAD COINS.—Any number of facilities of the United States Mint may be used to strike the half dollar coins minted under section 202(a)(3).

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary—

(1) shall commence issuing coins minted under this title as soon as possible after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) shall not issue any coins after the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date such coins are first issued.

SEC. 205. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under section 202(a) (other than the 50 dollar gold coins referred to in subsection (d)) shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharges required by section 206(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under section 202(a) at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders received before the issuance of the coins minted under section 202(a). The sale prices with respect to such prepaid orders shall be at a reasonable discount.

(d) GOLD COINS.—Notwithstanding section 204(c)(2), the Secretary shall issue a 50 dollar coin minted under section 202(a)(1) for presentation free of charge to the next of kin or personal representative of each individual identified under section 202(b). The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of such gold coins.

SEC. 206. SURCHARGES ON SALE OF COINS.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Any sale by the Secretary of a coin minted under this title shall include a surcharge of an amount determined by the Secretary to be sufficient to cover the cost of the gold coins minted under section 202(a)(1) (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and shipping) for presentation in accordance with section 205(d), which charge may not be less than—

(1) \$100 per coin for the 50 dollar gold coins;

(2) \$10 per coin for the 1 dollar coin; and

(3) \$5 per coin for the half dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF EXCESS PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds from the surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this title in excess of the cost of producing all coins issued under this title (including coins issued for individuals identified pursuant to section 202(b)(2)) shall be—

(1) used to cover the costs incurred in the production of gold medals under title I that have not been recovered from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under such title; and

(2) with respect to any amount remaining after the costs described in paragraph (1) are covered, transferred to any fund for victims of the tragedies of September 11, 2001, that the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General jointly determine to be appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the order of the

House of Wednesday, September 10, 2003, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation, and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset let me thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for the assistance they have given in formulating this legislation and for the efforts they have made in helping to rebuild New York and in all they have done since September 11 working together as a united force to bring people together and to focus attention on the tremendous heroism that was demonstrated on that day in New York, at the Pentagon, and, of course, on Flight 93.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this legislation is to commend those who died in the line of duty on September 11, 2001. It is almost axiomatic today to say that our lives will never be the same since September 11, and they have not. But in many ways from the terrible ashes of death and destruction that occurred on September 11, our country today is stronger than it ever was before. It is stronger morally, it is stronger spiritually, it has a great sense of moral clarity and resolve.

One of the reasons for that is at the time of the attack when America could have fallen back, when America could have retreated and gone into a state of bewilderment, it united immediately and fought back. One of the reasons it did that was because the eyes of the country and the eyes of the world were on the Twin Towers of New York, they were on the Pentagon, and they saw what happened in the fields of Pennsylvania on Flight 93, and they saw those in the eye of the storm fought back.

In New York, we saw the police officers and the firefighters rushing into the Twin Towers. Over 343 firefighters were killed, and many police officers from the Port Authority were killed. I believe it was 37. There were 23 police officers from the New York City police department, all of whom were killed, all of whom, without any hesitation, went into the burning towers to effectuate the largest evacuation in history. More than 25,000 people were evacuated that day, and it was done because of the incredible heroism of those who answered the call, those in the fire department, those in the police depart-

ment and those from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the police officers who demonstrated their courage.

In addition, there were the EMS workers and the construction workers who went into the Twin Towers to bring people out; that set the tone for our country. That brought us together when the eyes of the world were watching. Just suppose if they had been watching and instead of seeing firefighters rush into the building, they saw them dispersing. Suppose they had seen a state of panic or people being left in those buildings to burn while firefighters and police officers stayed below, but they did not.

All of us in New York have suffered the loss of constituents, of friends, relatives, neighbors, and in many ways the list is too long to begin to enumerate. Certainly in my own community, the Haskell brothers, Tom and Tim, were killed. There was Lieutenant John Perry who was killed. From the adjoining community of Farmingdale, Pete Ganci was the chief of the department, and he was killed. Father Michael Judge, the chaplain of the department was killed. Michael Boyle was killed, as was David Arce. I can go down the whole list of names of people that we knew, people that were friends and neighbors, people who dedicated their lives to the police department, to the fire department.

There was a police captain from the Port Authority, Cathy Mazur, who is responsible for saving untold numbers of lives. She was on the main floor of the World Trade Center, and when people could not get out, she took out her revolver and blew out the windows, and that alone enabled hundreds of people to escape. She was later killed.

□ 1030

But that is typical of the type of courage that was shown that day, the type of determination that was shown that day. There were similar acts of courage at the Pentagon. God knows there were tremendous acts of courage on Flight 93 which, as so many have said, probably saved our lives, saved the lives of those in the White House that day by bringing that plane down.

So I believe that it is important that, as a body, Congress speak on behalf of the American people to really try to begin a down payment on the debt that we owe to all those who gave their lives on September 11. In saying that, in no way should we be diminishing those who were not part of the uniformed services who were killed that day, men and women who went to work, who were doing their job, people at Cantor Fitzgerald, all those firms, they were almost wiped out on September 11, also performed acts of heroism, most of which will never be known because it was not recorded, but we know when the World Trade Center was attacked back in 1993 how heroic those people had been.

There is no doubt that it was done again in 2001. We are singling out and

specifying the uniformed services and the rescue workers for what they did; but at the same time we are acknowledging the tremendous sacrifice of those who were killed just doing their jobs that day and who were targeted. They were targeted by Osama bin Laden because they symbolized the United States. The people in the World Trade Center symbolized the American economy. The people in the Pentagon symbolized the American military. They were targeted. These were not accidents that they were killed that day. They were killed for a reason. That is why the addition of the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) to this bill, which provides the commemorative coin to everyone who was killed that day, to me really brings this together in the unity that our country needs, the rescue workers and those who were killed because they were working that day; the country working together, Democrats and Republicans, the House and hopefully the Senate standing together to acknowledge those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001, and whose memory will always be with us.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as coauthor of this legislation, I am pleased to join the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) in support of H.R. 1538, the True American Heroes Act of 2003. The brave men and women who came to our defense on 9/11 may not have been soldiers, but they certainly were heroes. Thousands of New York City's fire, police and EMT workers came racing down to the World Trade Center to give their all, to rescue the victims of the most terrible terrorist attack on America in history. The passengers of Flight 93 crashed their plane rather than allow it to slam into another building, perhaps the Capitol itself. Rescue workers at the Pentagon labored to free their colleagues. These people are true American heroes and heroines. They deserve full honors.

This bill consolidates three proposals for recognizing our heroes, a bill authored by myself and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) to present gold medals to emergency rescuers who perished in the World Trade Center which first passed the House last December and actually in December 2001. This will be the third time this bill has passed this House; legislation proposed by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) to create a Spirit of America coin; and suggestions that we honor rescuers at the Pentagon and the brave people who wrestled Flight 93 to the ground in Pennsylvania. They saved an untold number of lives and quite possibly the very building in which we are standing.

More than 2 years after September 11, the shock, pain and trauma of that day lingers with my constituents in

New York. While we resiliently cleaned up the site ahead of schedule, no New Yorker can walk past a firehouse or police precinct without an empty feeling in the pit of their stomach over the 343 firefighters, 37 Port Authority police officers, and 23 New York City police officers who gave their lives to save others that day. In my own district, 25 different fire stations lost people in the terror attacks. One of these firehouses, the Roosevelt Island-based special operations unit, lost 10 men because a shift change was in progress when the attacks occurred. Off-duty firefighters grabbed their gear and headed to the scene. Only God knows how many people owe them their lives. Off-duty personnel dying on the job is the ultimate paradox. But such was the valor of September 11.

When I was at Ground Zero on September 12, I heard estimates from State officials that as many as 20,000 people had been killed in the World Trade Center. We now know that, thanks to the heroics of the rescue workers, the death toll was well below 3,000. From the moment the planes struck the towers, from all over the city and surrounding areas, rescuers poured out of firehouses and precinct houses to put the lives of strangers ahead of their own. They were cops, firemen, EMTs, and other public servants. This legislation lets us honor these men and women who died so others could live.

It is true that thousands of families are missing family members 2 years later, but perhaps the best reason to pass this bill is that tens of thousands of families are not. In the past, the Congressional Gold Medal has been awarded to honor contributions to America by outstanding individuals and groups. Not since Pearl Harbor had America suffered a large-scale act of war on its own soil. I consider those who battled the flames to save lives to be the first soldiers killed in the war on terrorism. I doubt that many in the military would disagree, and I think this body needs to honor them appropriately. The True American Heroes Act will award Congressional Gold Medals to the brave rescuers who perished in the attacks, to the individual precinct houses, firehouses and emergency response stations that suffered losses, to the offices of the mayor and Governor of New York, and the head of the Port Authority which ran the World Trade Center for its 28-year life span. For the Port Authority, this is an especially fitting honor. My friend Neil Levin was head of the Port Authority. On September 11, Neil was among those lost in the attack trying to save others.

New York City is thankful to all Members of this House for this honor and for helping the City of New York recover since the attack. Why are these medals important? Let us put ourselves in the place of the men, women, and children who lost family members on September 11. They learned that some-

thing horrible had happened. They turned on the television like the rest of us. They watched in horror as the towers burned, the people jumped and the buildings collapsed. Then they waited and wondered and prayed and wept. As the day turned to night and night to morning, they waited for a reassuring call from a familiar voice that never came. When the realization finally sank in, they were confronted with the articles of continuity that had become in an instant artifacts of a life ended in midstream by an act of sheer insanity: an empty pair of shoes, a chair at the dinner table, a side of the bed. To grasp what that must have felt like even for a moment is to get a glimpse of grief in its purest form. We need to give these family members, their loved ones and colleagues another artifact of that day, one worthy of the rescue workers' courage, sacrifice and love, something affirming, something tangible, something precious, something gold, the most distinguished honor that can be bestowed by this Congress. The U.S. Mint will make bronze reproductions of the medals available to all Americans who wish to honor the rescue workers.

Finally, the bill is much improved, with language provided by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL). This Spirit of America coin is a highly appropriate commemorative for this solemn occasion. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for his contribution to the legislation as well as the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), my counterpart on the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology. And we thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) for his strong support of this legislation and ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

New York City is thankful to all Members of this House. We thank you for responding to the City of New York in its time of greatest need.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was going to yield time to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), but he has agreed to defer to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding time to me, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey.

I rise to offer my strong support for H.R. 1538, the True American Heroes Act of 2003. I also rise to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for their leadership on this bill and also my colleague and friend from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS), who has been a stalwart ally in this effort. Finally, I want to thank the House majority and minority leadership for agreeing to bringing

this bill up under unanimous consent and today on September 11. It is very fitting that we do this on September 11.

Today is the second anniversary of the greatest attack on America since our Republic was founded. Since that day, Americans have stood together, united as we never have before. Thus, it is fitting and appropriate that the House takes up this legislation. It provides the heroes of that day with a Congressional Gold Medal. It awards these medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and perished and to the people aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who helped resist the hijackers and caused the plane to crash. This bill is combined with a bill that I had that we had a majority of Members of this House cosponsoring which requires the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the spirit of America, recognizing the tragic events of September 11, 2001. I am delighted that we have combined these two bills into one really very special bill.

Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 2001, after coming down to Washington from New York, I was in New York City on September 11. I spoke on the House floor. I would like very much to read what I said that day, September 12, one day after the terrible attacks in 2001, because it is the way I feel now, and I think it is the way so many of us feel.

“Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak from the heart. I have had a very tough couple of days. I think America lost our innocence yesterday, and I just kept thinking that perhaps this was a bad dream and we would somehow wake up and it would not be true, but we all know it is.

“Mr. Speaker, I am a New Yorker, born and bred. I love our city. I was in New York when this tragedy occurred. I often say to my children when we come back to New York, look at the skyline, look at the World Trade Center. It is so invigorating. It makes me feel so wonderful just to be in this city, the city I love, the city in which I was born.

“Mr. Speaker, we New Yorkers are a tough breed; but I have to tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, this morning at 7 a.m. when I went over the George Washington Bridge to come back down here to Washington and I took a look at the New York skyline and saw the Twin Towers were not there and in its place I saw the smoke and the fire, I really lost it. I really lost it.

“Mr. Speaker, as much as I have lost it because I do not see the towers there, it pales by comparison when I think of the victims, the men, women and children who lost their lives; the firemen, the policemen who came there to save people's lives and lost their lives.

□ 1045

“People who go to work, like millions of people in this great country, go

to work to earn a living to support their families, they go to work and they are killed by lunatics.

We have some questions to be asked, Mr. Speaker. We have to ask why our intelligence failed us, why our security failed us. Congress has to get to the bottom of this and ask these questions. Congress will find out.

Let me say to the terrorists and those people in the streets that we saw, the Palestinians and others who were dancing in the streets with glee, let me say to them and Osama Bin Laden and the Taliban and all the people that support terrorism, you have awakened a sleeping giant. The United States will not rest until we root out every one of you, until we root out the terror and the terrorist cells. We are going to rally around our President, as we always have, with bipartisanship. We are all one America. God bless this wonderful Nation. God bless America.”

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the vote on this bill today will be unanimous, because 2 years later, we in this Congress are just as resolute as we were 2 years ago to destroy the scourge of terrorism and to honor the brave men, women and children who lost their lives and to the people who responded who gave their lives so that others may live.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and his colleagues, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), for their proposal, and I strongly support it.

Mr. Speaker, no words nor any precious medal can capture the grief and heartache of September 11 better than the words of the poem “The Names” by Billy Collins, the Poet Laureate of the United States, who gave us this wonderful piece of poetry so eloquently as we met in a special session of Congress in New York last year at this very time.

“Yesterday, I lay awake in the palm of the night.

A soft rain stole in, unhelped by any breeze,
And when I saw the silver glaze on the windows,

I started with A, with Ackerman, as it happened,

Then Baxter and Calabro,
Davis and Eberling, names falling into place
As droplets fell through the dark.

Names printed on the ceiling of the night.
Names slipping around a watery bend.

Twenty-six willows on the banks of a stream.
In the morning, I walked out barefoot
Among thousands of flowers

Heavy with dew like the eyes of tears,
And each had a name—

Fiori inscribed on a yellow petal
Then Gonzalez and Han, Ishikawa and Jenkins.

Names written in the air
And stitched into the cloth of the day.

A name under a photograph taped to a mailbox.

Monogram on a torn shirt,

I see you spelled out on storefront windows
And on bright unfurled awnings of this city.

I say the syllables as I turn a corner—
Kelly and Lee,

Medina, Nardella, and O'Connor.

When I peer into the woods,

I see a thick tangle where letters are hidden
In a puzzle concocted for children.

Parker and Quigley in the twigs of an ash,
Rizzo, Schubert, Torres, and Upton,

Secrets in boughs of an ancient maple.

Names written in the pale sky.

Names rising in the updraft amid buildings.
Names silent in stone

Or cried out behind a door.

Names blown over the earth and out to sea.
In the evening—weakening light, the last

swallows.

A boy on a lake lifts his oars.

A woman by a window puts a match to a candle,

And the names are outlined on the rose clouds—

Vanacore and Wallace,

(Let X stand, if it can, for the ones unfound)
Then Young and Ziminsky, the final jolt of

Z.

Names etched on the head of a pin.

One name spanning a bridge, another under-
going a tunnel.

A blue name needled into the skin.

Names of citizens, workers, mothers and fathers,

The bright-eyed daughter, the quick son.

Alphabet of names in a green field.

Names in the small tracks of birds.

Names lifted from a hat

Or balanced on the tip of the tongue.

Names wheeled into the dim warehouse of memory.

So many names, there is barely room on the walls of the heart.”

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, two years ago to the day after the tragic terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, this date will always be etched in the minds of every American as a new day of infamy, when over 3,000 innocent people lost their lives. My most heartfelt prayers go out to the victims, survivors, families, friends and the representatives who suffered losses on this tragic day.

The debris has been cleared and buildings repaired, but none of us will ever forget the massive loss of lives and the real fear that confronted each of us on that fatal day. In particular, my thoughts and prayers go out to thousands of our Nation's first responders, our firemen and women, emergency medical personnel, our police officers, who selflessly put themselves in harm's way, and in numerous instances paid the ultimate sacrifice with their own lives.

Despite these terrible events, we as a Nation must remain strong, and we have; we must persevere, and we have; and we must remain resolute in our thoughts and actions, that never again will this happen on America's soil.

The anniversary of September 11 also provides a time for an honest assessment of where we stand on our own Homeland Security. Providing for the security of our homeland must be the number one priority of government today. Despite the steps that have been taken to improve homeland security, I believe we must do more. In memory of the thousands who perished innocently when they got up that morning, not knowing what fate had in store for them, we must concentrate on how we protect our borders.

We currently have 600,000 containers coming into our ports each day, but less than 3 percent of the cargo containers entering America's ports are ever checked to determine their contents. And, tragically, our Nation's first responders still do not have the equipment and training they need to respond to another terrorist attack.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that as we memorialize all of these innocent Americans, that we pay attention to what their sacrifices mean and interpret it as meaning we must concentrate and move ahead.

Finally, to better protect our people, we must learn everything we can about this fatal date of 9/11. So I am looking forward to seeing the report that came in on lessons learned.

We must honor the people who were sacrificed, and we must see and put in place those necessary programs and projects, and we must have a philosophy that we start here today in memory of our dead to protect our own, as we protect others around the globe.

May God bless their souls. May they all rest in peace.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from New York for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, today, of course, we commemorate what occurred 2 years ago, an event that changed the face of America forever. We are not the same country we were then.

Our country was once referred to as a giant hotel lobby, where you come and go at will. Well, giant hotel lobbies that are open, notoriously are easy pickings for terrorists, and they were easy pickings that day.

My friends from New York lost many constituents that day, Mr. Speaker. I lost, as far as I know, only one. Sandy Bradshaw was a flight attendant on the United Airlines flight that ditched in Pennsylvania, and I believe that she and her fellow crew members saved many lives by having elected to ditch that day.

Today, at Eastern Randolph High School in Ramseur, North Carolina, my district, there is a special event that will commence very shortly in honor of Sandy Bradshaw, who was an alumni of that school.

These people who came calling, and I will have to give the sanitized version

of how I have referred to them, because I have referred to them in language that perhaps would not be acceptable to you, Mr. Speaker, or to the House, but, for want of a better word, they are cowardly criminals, murderers, who came calling that day. But they have not won. We are of strong resolve, and I am confident we will prevail.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the great State of North Carolina for his very moving comments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the authors of this legislation have worked on it for 2 years to create a fitting honor for the heroes of 9/11. This is actually the third time this legislation has come to the floor. We have passed it twice out of the House, and this is the first time this extremely worthy issue has been raised.

In response to the request from Members in the Senate, we have tried to be all-inclusive and have broadened the categories of medal recipients to include all the police, fire and rescue workers who responded to the attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I feel it is very important that we pass this very important legislation today on 9/11, on the anniversary, and move forward.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and consistency. The gentleman has stayed on this like a pit bull to get it to the floor for the third time. I thank also the chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK). I hope we will be able to pass it for the third time today with his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me, in conclusion, once again thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for the tremendous effort she has made over the past 2 years in doing all she can and working with me in a bipartisan way to move this legislation forward.

Let me thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), who is one of the first who authored a bill after September 11 commemorating those who died on that tragic day, and also has worked so closely with us, all of us trying to put egos aside, and we did definitely put partisan interests aside to move this forward. I think that really in many ways symbolizes the very best of September 11. We realize there is something more than our own narrow parochial interests, that there is a larger cause.

So I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for the way they have conducted themselves, for the assistance they have given me and for the dedication they have to this matter.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman OXLEY), who has

been cooperative throughout. I want to thank the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), for agreeing to bring this legislation forward on September 11. To me it is the most fitting day of all it could be brought on.

□ 1100

Also, I would say that as we remember those who died, as we honor those who died in the line of duty that day, that we realize that their families are still going forward. So as we honor those who died, let us not forget those who survived them who still, every day, must confront the dilemma of going forward, the emptiness, the sorrow, the tragedy that occurred to them on September 11 and will be with them throughout the remainder of their lives. We should just try to put ourselves in their position, to understand some of the terrible trauma that was inflicted on them. In doing that, that should give us more momentum to make sure this bill not just passes today, but also to work with the Senate to find a way to get it through.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just passing a bill for the sake of passing a bill. I think it is a real duty and obligation on the Congress of the United States that we record and let it be known the way we feel and the respect and the honor that we have for those who died in the line of duty on September 11. And by awarding a Congressional Gold Medal, that is the way that we can pay that tribute, not just to them, but to history, so that history will record exactly what they did and the extent to which we thought about it. And, in doing that, out of that twisted steel and burning rubble of the World Trade Center, out of the terrible destruction at the Pentagon, and out of the plane that was literally obliterated in the fields of Pennsylvania, from those horrible moments will come a greater America and a lesson for future generations to realize what people should do when confronted by crisis. Because all of us in this House, we can all talk a good game, but the reality is, no one ever knows what they will do when they are really put to the test. On September 11 we had so many hundreds of people, if not thousands of people, who were put to the test, and they all passed the test. So by them passing that test that day, by them showing the courage and determination that they did, that has allowed us to go forward as a Nation.

So let us go forward from this bill today, standing together behind our President, behind the united leadership of the House and the Senate, committed to America. We can have partisan differences, we can have differences on tactics, but we should never, ever again disagree on the overriding goal of America destroying the forces of international terrorism, protecting our borders, and doing all we can to ensure that a September 11 will

never again occur, and that these men and women did not die in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, September 10, 2003, the bill is considered read for amendment, and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM ACT

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of September 10, 2003, I call up the bill (H.R. 911) to authorize the establishment of a memorial to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of September 10, 2003, the bill is considered read for amendment.

The text of H.R. 911 is as follows:

H.R. 911

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF MEMORIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board established in section 2(a) is authorized to establish a memorial (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Memorial”) in accordance with this Act on Federal lands administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs (as defined in section 2(e) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1002(e)) to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad, except those individuals identified by the Attorney General of the United States as participating or conspiring in terrorist-related activities.

(b) DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall detail to the Advisory Board such support staff as are necessary to assist the members of the Advisory Board in carrying out its responsibilities.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—The Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) shall apply to the Memorial, with the exception of section 3(c) of that Act which shall not apply to the Memorial.

SEC. 2. ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an advisory board to be known as the “Victims of Terrorism Memorial Advisory Board” (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Advisory Board”).

(b) MEMBERS.—The Advisory Board shall consist of 13 members who shall be appointed, not later than 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, by the President (in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense) from interested persons, including representatives of organizations dedicated to

assisting victims of terrorism and their families.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall be one of its Members elected by a majority of the Members at the first meeting of the Advisory Board.

(d) TERMS; VACANCIES.—Members of the Advisory Board shall serve for the life of the Advisory Board. The President shall make appointments to fill any vacancies that occur.

(e) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall—

(1) raise necessary funds to establish, design, construct, and maintain the Memorial; and

(2) begin consultation under section 7 of the Commemorative Works Act not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) DONATIONS.—The Advisory Board may accept donations on behalf of the United States for the establishment, design, construction, and maintenance of the Memorial.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Board shall terminate not later than 120 days after completion of the Memorial.

(h) FACAs.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Board.

SEC. 3. DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.

If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the Memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount provided for in section 8(b) of the Commemorative Works Act), or upon expiration of the authority for the Memorial under section 10(b) of that Act, there remains a balance in the funds received under section 3(f) for maintenance of the Memorial, the Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall transfer the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the account provided for in section 8(b)(1) of that Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment designated in the previous order of the House is adopted.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF MEMORIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board established in section 2(a) is authorized to establish a memorial (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Memorial”) in accordance with this Act on Federal lands administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs (as defined in section 8902(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code) to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad, except those individuals identified by the Attorney General of the United States as participating or conspiring in terrorist-related activities.

(b) DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall detail to the Advisory Board such support staff as are necessary to assist the members of the Advisory Board in carrying out its responsibilities.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, shall apply to the Memorial, with the exception of section 8903(c) of that title which shall not apply to the Memorial.

SEC. 2. ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an advisory board to be known as the “Victims of Terrorism Memorial Advisory Board” (referred to hereafter in this Act as the “Advisory Board”).

(b) MEMBERS.—The Advisory Board shall consist of 13 members who shall be appointed not later than 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act. Nine members shall be appointed by the President (in consulta-

tion with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense), 2 members by the Speaker of the House of Representatives (in consultation with the Minority Leader) and 2 members by the Majority Leader of the Senate (in consultation with the Minority Leader) from interested persons, including representatives of organizations dedicated to assisting victims of terrorism and their families.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall be one of its members elected by a majority of the members at the first meeting of the Advisory Board.

(d) TERMS; VACANCIES.—Members of the Advisory Board shall serve for the life of the Advisory Board. The President shall make appointments to fill any vacancies that occur.

(e) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall—

(1) raise necessary funds to establish, design, construct, and maintain the Memorial; and

(2) begin consultation under section 8907 of title 40, United States Code, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) DONATIONS.—The Advisory Board may accept donations on behalf of the United States for the establishment, design, construction, and maintenance of the Memorial.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Board shall terminate not later than 120 days after completion of the Memorial.

(h) FACAs.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Board.

SEC. 3. DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.

If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the Memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount provided for in section 8906(b) of title 40, United States Code), or upon expiration of the 7-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, there remains a balance in the funds received under section 8903(f) of title 40, United States Code, for maintenance of the Memorial, the Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall transfer the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b) of that title.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO).

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago today, America experienced an unimaginable act of terrorism that resulted in over 3,000 innocent people being taken from their families, including over 300 brave firefighters and 60 police officers from New York City, and over 40 military personnel at the Pentagon. The attacks of 9/11 changed America forever. While it renewed our sense of patriotism, it also challenged Americans to accept new limitations in their lives.

While our Nation has certainly experienced tragedies in the past, the events of 9/11 affected the soul of this Nation and have transformed how millions of Americans live their lives. America has entered a new era following the events of September 11, 2001, an age where peace and personal security at home is no longer taken for granted. Americans, unfortunately, have been victims of terrorism in the past.