

must be memorialized to share with future generations.

When I think of the strength that Gold Star Families exhibit, I immediately think of Ray and Leesa Philippon and their family. Their son, Lance Corporal Lawrence R. Philippon tragically lost his life on May 8th, 2005, on Mother's Day and Leesa and Ray's anniversary.

Lance Corporal Philippon committed to fighting for his country shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He was a part of the Washington D.C. Color Guard, and bravely gave up his position to join the 3rd Battalion Second Marines as an infantryman. They were deployed to Al Qaim, Iraq. Lance Corporal Philippon was killed in action when he was only 22 years old.

The Philippon family has taken their grief and found strength. They have founded the Lance Corporal Lawrence R. Philippon Memorial Fund, which presents awards to local high school students and has funded 200 cleft palate surgeries through Operation Smile.

They have made it their mission to share their son's story, and help other families to remember their sons and daughters who were lost too soon in war. They recently helped organize the visit of the Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance to their hometown, West Hartford, CT, to help families heal.

I would also like to recognize another Gold Star Mother, Mary Kight. Mary Kight is the President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. She lost her son Michael while he was deployed to Vietnam in 1967. He had been a helicopter pilot and was killed in a helicopter accident, three months after being deployed.

Mary struggled with coming to terms with Michael's death. The anti-Vietnam War movement made her feel like Michael had lost his life for nothing. She didn't join the Gold Star Mothers for decades, but she has now found comfort in them.

Gold Star Families like the Philippons and the Kights deserve to have their loved ones' stories told, to memorialize their sons and daughters, but also to help their families heal.

On October 25th, a memorial will be revealed that is dedicated to Gold Star Mothers at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. This statue of a Gold Star Mother is joining the Fallen Star Memorial there.

In addition to honoring our Gold Star Families with physical memorials, we should also honor their words and stories.

I strongly support the Gold Star Families Voices Act. This bill will give the Gold Star Families the important opportunity to share their memories of our fallen. These service members have given the ultimate sacrifice, and we owe them the opportunity to have their voices heard, even though they can no longer tell their own stories.

I want to thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for his hard work on this bill, to honor those who have fallen.

I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues in the Senate to quickly pass this bill so it can be sent to the President's desk.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday will mark the 15th year since that day our nation faced the greatest loss of life on U.S. soil from a terrorist attack.

The years that have passed since that day have not dimmed my memory or diminished my resolve to see an end to terrorism not only in the United States, but around the world.

As a Member of Congress and a senior Member of the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary, both of which deal with national security issues, I have long been committed and engaged in efforts to develop policies that anticipate and respond to new and emerging challenges to the security of our nation and the peace and safety of the world.

I will never forget September 11, 2001 when 2,977 men, women and children were murdered by 19 hijackers who took commercial aircraft and used them as missiles.

I stood on the East Front steps of the Capitol on September 11, 2001, along with 150 members of the House of Representatives and sang "God Bless America."

I visited the site of the World Trade Center Towers in the aftermath of the attacks and grieved over the deaths of so many of our men, women, and children.

I want to thank and commend the work of our first responder community on that day and every day since September 11 for their efforts to protect their communities and our nation from acts of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001 will always be remembered as a day of tragedy and heroism, heartbreak and courage, and shared loss.

But the loss remains especially painful to those whose loved ones died or were injured by the criminal acts of terrorists on that fateful day.

They remain in our thoughts and prayers and they have our sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, this past July the Judiciary Committee, upon which I sit, held a hearing on S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," at which the bill's supporters offered powerful and compelling testimony in favor of insuring that 9/11 families have access to their day in court against the parties directly and vicariously liable for the injuries they suffered.

The "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 to create a new exception to the Act's general grant of foreign sovereign immunity.

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigation, I am committed to doing all that I can to ensure that they receive their day in court.

I am sensitive, however, to the concerns raised by the Administration regarding unintended consequences that may result if the bill is passed in its current form.

In particular, the Administration, allied nations, and others point out that enactment of S. 2040 in its current form may lead to retaliation

by other countries against the United States.

Additionally, the Administration raises the legitimate concern that if enacted in its current form, S. 2040 may hamper cooperation from other nations because they may become more reluctant to share sensitive intelligence out of fear that such information may be disclosed in litigation.

I am confident, however, that these legitimate concerns can be addressed and resolved as the legislation makes its way through the legislative process and I look forward to working with the Administration and the bill's sponsors and supporters to craft acceptable legislation that can be presented to the President for signature.

I thank the House and Senate sponsors of this important legislation, my colleagues Congressmen PETER KING and JERROLD NADLER of New York, and Senators JOHN CORNYN of Texas and CHARLES SCHUMER of New York, for their tireless efforts on behalf of fairness and justice for the 9/11 families.

TRIBUTE TO EARLHAM LION'S CLUB

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Earlham Lion's Club for being honored as the 2016 Citizens of the Year at the Earlham Freedom Fest.

Earlham Lion's Club was chartered on June 1, 2009 and have since faithfully served their community. They provide eyesight screenings and collect used eye glasses for use on missions in developing countries. Earlham Lion's club members have provided a free community Thanksgiving dinner and provide school supplies for children in need along with a number of other programs.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating the Earlham Lion's Club for being selected as the 2016 Citizens of the Year. It is an honor to represent them in the United States House of Representatives and I wish them all nothing but continued success.

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Campus Fire Safety Month during the month of September.

I first became involved in the issue of campus fire safety following a tragic fire at Seton Hall University, in which three students were killed. Since that time, we have made many strides, including the passage of the Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act, which will ensure that prospective students and their families are provided with the fire safety records, information and statistics of colleges and universities.

Last academic year, there were no college-related fire deaths anywhere in the U.S. for