

quite possibly saved this very building we are standing in today, to the first responders who gave their life to ensure the well-being and safety of others.

We will never forget the President, who confidently stood on the rubble of collapsed buildings in New York to comfort an uncertain nation. I will always remember the first pitch President Bush threw at Yankee Stadium several weeks later.

As tens of thousands of fans looked on, the ball went right down the middle. He threw a perfect strike. It was a symbolic moment. It was symbolic of America's ability to not only recover from tragedy but reemerge as a greater country than it was before.

In God we trust.

REMEMBERING 9/11

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, on the steps of the House, we sang "God Bless America."

Standing on those steps some 15 years ago, the searing memory comes back again—the horrific bloodshed, the dividing of families, the loss of lives, the pain, and the tragedy. To those remaining loved ones, I offer my deepest sympathy. And to America: we will never forget.

I am grateful that we passed S. 2040 today, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. The reason is, our citizens should never be denied the right to enter courts and to petition for justice. As well, the pain needs to be eased.

I want to thank those first-responders. I visited Ground Zero. I have felt that pain. Every year, I think it is important for Americans to understand that we must remember to give honor and respect to those fallen and recognize the values of this Nation.

As this legislation makes its way, I am committed to working with the administration in ensuring that all is well. It is important to note today, as we sang "God Bless America," we honored those families still in pain by passing S. 2040, Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

God bless America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in recognizing and commemorating the 15th anniversary of the attacks on our homeland on September 11, 2001.

This Sunday will mark the 15th year since that day our nation faced the greatest loss of life on U.S. soil from an enemy attack since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

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 a 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."

September 11, 2001 remains a tragedy that defines our nation's history, but the final chapter will be written by those who are charged with keeping our nation and its people safe while preserving the way of life that terrorists seek to change.

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.

I watched as thousands of first responders, construction workers, and volunteers worked to recover the remains of the dead, and removed the tons of debris, while placing their own lives and health at risk.

The men and women who worked at "Ground Zero" were called by a sense of duty to help in our nation's greatest time of need since the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

There is unfinished work for those first responders who were injured or suffered illnesses during and after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

September 11 will forever remain a part of our national memory and for those who serve in Congress a clarion call to be vigilant against those who would do our nation harm.

To respond to the medical needs of the thousands of people who became ill from exposure to the toxic environment at Ground Zero, Congress passed the James Zadroga September 11 Care Act (9/11 Care Act), which provides rescue and recover workers with health care to treat the conditions that resulted from their exposure to toxic dust after the terrorist attack.

Under the leadership of President Obama, Bin Laden was found and killed.

President Obama accepted, and succeeded in the mission to bring justice to those responsible for the carnage of September 11, 2001.

Today, let us remember those who perished on this awful day 14 years ago, and rededicate ourselves to honoring their sacrifice by doing all we can to protect our homeland and all who dwell peaceably therein.

BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR AVA

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

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, everyone, meet Ava.

Ava hails from Bondurant, Iowa, and is turning 11 years old next week. She is the beautiful daughter of Kris and Joni Hutchinson. Something you should know about Ava? Ava is a warrior. She is a fighter. She also is battling brain cancer.

Now, cancer is not new to Ava. It is something she has fought as a toddler. The battle began again, though, for Ava this summer.

Ava has faced the heartbreaking realities and struggles in her fight against cancer that many folks are lucky enough to never encounter in their lifetime, but Ava is strong, Ava is brave, and Ava is an inspiration to us all. She makes us all smile—everyone she has met.

With her 11th birthday quickly approaching, you may be asking yourself: What does she wish for? Ava wants a birthday card from you—anyone—everyone who would like to send one.

Folks from across the country and around the world are sending birthday cards for Ava. Of the cards, she said: I like getting them because I know people are praying for me and thinking about me every day.

Let's help make Ava's birthday one to remember. I encourage all who can—everybody—to take part in this outpouring of love and support for Ava. Anyone can send a card to Ava at: cards for Ava, 104 9th Street SE, Altoona, Iowa 50009. The address is right here.

Mr. Speaker, today, let us take a moment to send our thoughts and prayers to Ava and her family. Let us wish Ava a happy birthday. The best one is yet to come.

Happy birthday, Ava.

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CONGRESS NEEDS TO DO ITS JOB NOW AND FULLY FUND ZIKA

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to stop playing around with people's lives and fully fund the fight against Zika now.

For my home State, Florida, at stake is the future of our newborns, our tourism jobs, and the hopes and dreams of folks like Andrew and Christina Rosebrough. For the past 9 years, they have battled the ups and downs of infertility, seen numerous doctors, spending thousands of dollars on treatments and drugs. After years of heartache and disappointment, they actually gave up; and then their own miracle, Christina became pregnant.

They were elated. They were excited. But now their joy is tempered by anxiety and trepidation. Christina has to stay confined to her home, scared of that poisonous mosquito that would devastate her baby's brain.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to do its job now and fully fund Zika.

HONORING THE KENNEWICK AMERICAN YOUTH BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the remarkable achievements of the Kennewick American Youth baseball team, the reigning U.S. champions.

The Kennewick American team won the United States Division of the Cal Ripken World Series Tournament to become the U.S. champions. They then finished second in the world, competing against the best young baseball talent from around the world. Kennewick's own Simeon Howard was named the MVP of the U.S. side of the tournament, while setting a tournament record for hits.

With the support of their families and local community, Kennewick American concluded its season with an impressive 36 and 5 record, while becoming the first team from the Pacific Northwest to ever reach the championship game. This is an incredible achievement for the State of Washington as well as the Pacific Northwest.

I am proud to represent these young men in Congress. I congratulate the players and their coach, Bryan Knapik, on their tremendous success and look forward to following their run next season.

HEAR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, after Orlando, the largest mass shooting in our history, Democrats focused the Congress and the country on the urgent need to expand background checks. Many jurisdictions, including the Nation's Capital, have strong gun safety laws, but they are countermanded daily by congressional failure to pass national legislation to keep criminals from bringing guns from neighboring jurisdictions.

Eighty-one percent of the American people support background checks before purchase of a deadly weapon. They want Congress to check the recent spike in gun violence nationwide. They want us to pass H.R. 1217, our bipartisan background check bill. Hear the American people.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT ROBERT HESS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lieutenant Robert Hess, a resident of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, in the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District. Lieutenant Hess was recently chosen by the Military Chaplains Association to receive its Distinguished Service Award, which annually recognizes excellent chaplains in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Veterans Affairs, and Civil Air Patrol.

Lieutenant Hess was born in Lock Haven and joined the Navy after graduating from Lock Haven High School in 1990. As a member of the Navy, he has traveled extensively during his service, including time spent in Spain, France, England, Slovenia, Germany, Greece, and the Netherlands. He is currently attached to the Destroyer Squadron, DESRON 60.

Lieutenant Hess also spent several years as a civilian pastor before being recalled to Active Duty after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, which, of course, occurred 15 years ago this Sunday.

As an Army dad, I have the deepest respect for our servicemen and -women, including those such as Lieutenant Hess, who work every day to counsel, teach, and minister to the spiritual needs of those servicemembers.

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I love my country, and I rise today to pay tribute to those who lost their lives on 9/11. It has been a very painful thing for those of us who love our country.

But notwithstanding all of the pain that I and the many others endure, it is not the same pain as those who have loved ones who made a transition on that day. So today I rise in honor of those who made the transition, those who went forward when others were running away.

I salute those who are willing to stand and secure this country. I salute the police officers. I salute the military. I thank them for their service.

I also want to honor those who lost their lives, and I have great sympathy for those who survived and the family members.

I ask for a moment of silent prayer. Mr. Speaker, I know that there are still people who are willing to go into harm's way to make the ultimate sacrifice so that we can have a better quality of life in the freest country in the world.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHASTA LIVESTOCK AUCTION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Shasta Livestock Auction, located in Cottonwood, California, which was opened in 1966 by Ellington Peek and his wife, Betty, and family.

Ellington is well known in California agriculture. He was named Tehama County's first Cattleman of the Year, California Livestock Man of the Year,

and an inductee into the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

In May, the Shasta Historical Society presented a program commemorating the auction yard, and while it tells a lot about the business, it also focuses on the person Ellington is that has made him so successful—an honest, hardworking man who represents the epitome of the American story.

Around the time Ellington Peek began buying and selling cattle at his yard, the industry started experiencing a lot of ups and downs in the market, forcing many ranchers out of the business. Refusing to give up, he took his business on the road, busing prospective buyers and sellers to different ranches and showing available cattle up on a slide show for purchase.

Later, this innovative model that was such a success ultimately led him to the business of video auction, starting the Western Video Market, with one of the first auctions selling over 25,000 head of cattle.

This innovation and vision not only gave California and Western cattlemen access to a national marketplace, but entirely changed the market. Today, it is a very viable and strong and thriving enterprise, the Shasta Livestock Auction, with the video market.

So I just want to say thank you to the Peeks; and also remembering their son they lost a few years ago, Andy, and what that means to that family operation and what it means, this anniversary of the 50th, to all of us in northern California.

CONGRATULATING UNITED LAUNCH ALLIANCE FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPACE LAUNCH

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women of United Launch Alliance on another successful space launch on Thursday. United Launch Alliance, or ULA, is headquartered in Centennial, Colorado, and has provided assured access to space since 2006.

ULA's most recent launch propelled NASA's OSIRIS-REx into space. The payload will travel to a near-Earth asteroid called Bennu, map the chemical elements on the asteroid's surface, and then return a sample to Earth in 2023.

This launch marks ULA's 11th consecutive successful space launch. This amazing success record is a testament to the hard work of ULA's dedicated team of professionals.

Congratulations on a job well done.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

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