

It is these communities who have sent their sons and daughters to give their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq, and wherever in the world terrorists uneasily rest their heads. My district knows first hand the cost of this sacrifice. Johnny Micheal Spann—a CIA officer and the first American killed in Afghanistan—was from my district. And while we grieve for this loss, we take inspiration from the sacrifices made by Mr. Spann, and the many other acts of sacrifice made by those like him who are serving our country in and out of uniform, overseas and at home.

This resolution marks a dark day in our Nation's history. Out of this darkness came a thousand points of light in the many personal acts of heroism and bravery that our fellow countrymen and women have engaged in since September 11. As we continue to remember the terrorist attacks on September 11, we also are inspired by those who sacrifice day after day to keep us safe, some in ways that are well known, other in ways that we will never know about.

Our Nation continues to make progress in the war against those who harmed us and seek to harm us again. And while we do, a grateful country remembers its dead, and celebrates the lives of those who toil to keep us free.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the nearly 3,000 heroic Americans who perished on September 11, 2001. We can honor their memory by ensuring every effort is taken to prevent such atrocities from occurring again on our soil.

Since September 11, 2001, we have learned much, and Congress has much to do to defend our democratic way of life and protect our homeland. We have committed our military might to combat terrorism in our world: More than 1,000 of our troops have now given their lives in Iraq for this cause.

In the days immediately following the 9/11 attacks, Congress put partisan politics aside and came together to find answers and implement change. In an event reminiscent of the first Congress, the House and Senate convened in New York's Federal Hall for a Special Session of Congress one year after the terrorist attacks, sending a strong message to the world that as Americans we stand together in our fight against terrorism. That bipartisan spirit carried on through the extraordinary work of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. The commissioners submitted to the American people a comprehensive assessment of what went wrong leading up to September 11, and what we can do to prevent future terrorist attacks on our homeland. Now that the 9/11 Commission has done its work, we in Congress must do ours. I support the Commission's recommendations, and am a cosponsor of the bipartisan "9/11 Commission Report Implementation Act," H.R. 5040.

I have listened and learned from meetings with first responders in Missouri's Fifth District, and have worked on the Homeland Security Committee in Congress to secure the resources they need to do their jobs. Our everyday heroes, our police, fire, ambulance and medical personnel must have the training, supplies, materials and equipment necessary to protect our communities. They are the main line of defense against terrorism at home. Because of their commitment we are more secure and better prepared than we were 3 years ago.

I urge my colleagues to maintain our bipartisan spirit and embrace the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. The 9/11 Commission Report is an excellent roadmap for implementing these changes—we must act and pass H.R. 5040. In the words of President Kennedy, "There are risks and costs to a program of action. But they are far less than the long range risks and costs of inaction."

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am forced to rise in opposition to this legislation, I do so despite my desire to commemorate the horrific attacks on September 11, 2001 and again express my sympathy to the families of the victims. But don't be fooled by the label. This legislation is no mere commemoration of the events of September 11, 2001. Rather, it is page after page of Congressional self-congratulation. It is page after page of praise for policies that have made us no safer from terrorist attack, but that have certainly made us much less free at home. Does it not strike anyone else as a bit unseemly for Congress to be congratulating itself on this solemn occasion?

This legislation is an endorsement of the policy of restricting freedoms at home that I have consistently opposed, including praise for the creation of the bloated and impotent Department of Homeland Security, the liberty-killing PATRIOT Act, and many other futile measures. It praises the notoriously ineffective air marshal program while avoiding altogether one of the most important lessons of the September 11, 2001 tragedy; The entire disaster could have been avoided with just one gun in the hands of each of the pilots. Four guns could have prevented September 11, 2001, but we are no closer to arming pilots than we were on September 10, 2001. Shortly after the attacks, I introduced a bill to allow pilots to be armed. Eventually, a version of that bill was passed, but pilots are still not armed. I also introduced several other bills to deal with the attacks of 9/11, protect us against future attacks, and do so without sacrificing our liberty.

What this legislation does not do is address some of the real causes of the hatred that lead others to wish to harm us. Why should we bother to understand the motivations of madmen and murderers? It is not to sympathize with them or their cause. It is to ensure our self-preservation. Those who oppose us and who have attacked us have made it very clear: They oppose our foreign policy of interventionism and meddling, and they oppose our one-sided approach to the Middle East. Therefore, mitigating the anger against us could be as simple as returning to the foreign policy recommended by our forefathers. We should not be stationing hundreds of thousands of our troops in more than 100 foreign countries, guarding their borders while our own remain open to terrorist infiltration. We should not be meddling in the internal affairs of foreign countries, nor should we be involving ourselves in foreign conflicts that have nothing to do with the United States. We should not be sending hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars overseas to "build nations" and "export democracy" at the barrel of a gun.

Many of my colleagues like to repeat the mantra that "freedom is under attack" in the United States. Well, they are right. Freedom is under attack in the United States, but not only from foreign terrorists. Freedom is under attack from a government that rushes to pass legislation like the PATRIOT Act, that guts civil liberties in the United States. Freedom is

under attack from those who are rushing to create a national biometric identification card and internal check-points, which will force innocent Americans to prove to government authorities that they are not terrorists. Freedom is under attack from a government that is spending itself into bankruptcy at an unprecedented pace. Freedom is under attack from a foreign policy that generates millions of enemies across the globe.

This legislation praises the number of Coast Guard boardings as one example of success, but we should not take a false sense of security from boardings. Rather, we should claim victories only if we have stopped another planned attack. Both shippers and recreational users of the gulf ports I represent have expressed concern about our new Federal policies and practices.

If we fail to heed the real lessons of September 11, 2001, we may well be condemned to see such tragedies repeated again in our land. It unfortunately seems that this is exactly what we are doing.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 3-year anniversary of the brutal terrorist attacks on our Nation, it is important that we remember those who lost their lives and the loved ones they left behind to face a world that is forever changed.

The senseless acts of violence that awoke us 3 years ago, have gripped our thoughts and have given us a new appreciation for the freedoms we cherish. This weekend, as we mourn the loss of those who perished in the attacks, we should also celebrate their lives and look back on how each symbolized, in their own unique way, the unrelenting American spirit which binds us all to that clear September day.

Like the rest of our Nation, my home State of Delaware experienced a great deal of tragedy on September 11, 2001. Bobby Fangman, Matthew Flocco, Jon Grabowski, Robert Jordan, John Murray, Davis "Deeg" Sezna Jr., and Rich Stewart, all fellow Delawareans, were taken during the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. In addition, Val Silver Ellis, Peter Frank, Michael San Phillip, Lincoln Quappe, Kevin Smith, Bill Tieste, Rodney Wotton and many others left loved ones behind in our State.

As a Nation, we have experienced the unthinkable and emerged again with determination and purpose. Yet, as we reflect on the past 3 years, there remains an enormous amount left to be done. Now is the time for us to come together in the heroic spirit of the citizens, firefighters, police officers, and emergency personnel who stood tall in the face of destruction. Congress must keep the memories of all the September 11th victims in mind as we do everything in our power to prevent something like this from ever happening again.

As we struggle to make progress in this momentous task, it is imperative that we remain focused and work together to reform our intelligence community and shore up the security of our homeland to protect all Americans. We have the power in Congress to implement change, but we must ensure that change is both meaningful and effective. One of the most important lessons that the victims of this tragedy can teach us is that every life is precious and that every action we take to improve our security could save lives in places like Delaware and across America.

Mr. Speaker, it is our duty to honor those who were lost by making sure their loved ones