

families. I have personally toured the sites of the attacks in New York and in Washington, and words cannot adequately capture the horror of those scenes.

This is an appropriate honor for a number of very brave Americans. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this bill.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3054. At the same time, I rise in great respect for the courage and compassion shown by those who gave their lives attempting to rescue their fellow citizens in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks. I also rise in admiration and gratitude to the passengers of Flight 93 who knowingly sacrificed their lives to prevent another terrorist attack. However, I do not believe that an unconstitutional authorization for Congressional Gold Medals is in the true spirit of these American heroes. After all, this legislation purports to honor personal sacrifices and acts of heroism by forcing others to pay for these gold medals.

Mr. Speaker, money appropriated for gold medals, or any other unconstitutional purpose, is, in the words of Davy Crockett, "Not Yours to Give." It is my pleasure to attach a copy of Davy Crockett's "Not Yours to Give" speech for the record. I hope my colleagues will carefully consider its message before voting to take money from American workers and families to spend on unconstitutional programs and projects.

Instead of abusing the taxing and spending power, I urge my colleagues to undertake to raise the money for these medals among ourselves. I would gladly donate to a Congressional Gold Medal fund whose proceeds would be used to purchase and award gold medals to those selected by Congress for this honor. Congress should also reduce the federal tax burdened on the families of those who lost their lives helping their fellow citizens on September 11. Mr. Speaker, reducing the tax burden on these Americans would be a real sacrifice for many in Washington since any reduction in taxes represents a loss of real and potential power for the federal government.

H.R. 3054 violates fundamental principles of fiscal responsibility by giving the Secretary of the Treasury almost unquestioned authority to determine who can and cannot receive a gold medal. Official estimates are that implementation of this bill will cost approximately 3.9 million dollars, however the terms of the bill suggest that the costs incurred by the United States taxpayer could be much higher. Furthermore, unlike previous legislation authorizing gold medals, H.R. 3054 does not instruct the Secretary of the Treasury to use profits generated by marketing bronze duplicates of the medal to reimburse the taxpayer for the costs of producing the medal. Unfortunately, because this bill was moved to the suspension calendar without hearings or a mark-up there was no opportunity for members of the Financial Services Committee such as myself to examine these questions.

Because of my continuing and uncompromising opposition to appropriations not authorized within the enumerated powers of the Constitution, I must remain consistent in my defense of a limited government whose powers are explicitly delimited under the enumerated powers of the Constitution—a Constitution which each Member of Congress swore to uphold. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I must oppose this legislation and respectfully suggest

that perhaps we should begin a debate among us on more appropriate processes by which we spend other people's money. Honorary medals and commemorative coins, under the current process, come from other people's money. It is, of course, easier to be generous with other people's money, but using our own funds to finance these gold medals is true to the spirit of the heroes of September 11.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3054, the True American Heroes Act, authorizing the President, on behalf of the Congress, to present Congressional Gold Medals to police officers, emergency workers, and other employees of federal, state, and local governments, who lost their lives in responding to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001.

This measure also authorizes the President to award medals to those people on board United Airlines Flight 93 who resisted their hijackers and caused the plane to crash, preventing an additional tragedy in Washington.

On that horrible day in September, our nation witnessed the best and the worst of humanity. The despicable and cowardly terrorist acts were valiantly countered with the incredible heroism and courage of our firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency personnel, and our fellow citizens.

Accordingly, it is incumbent upon our nation to honor those heroes who selflessly gave their lives in saving others. Bestowing the Congressional Gold Medal on those deserving men and women will be a fitting tribute to their memory and their contribution to our nation's freedom. Accordingly, I urge my fellow colleagues to support this important measure.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3054, the True American Heroes Act and want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) for their efforts in bringing this important legislation to the floor today.

Because there was no report filed by the Committee on Financial Services on this bill, I am including for the RECORD the CBO estimate for the legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2001.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you requested, the Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 3054, the True American Heroes Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford. Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE

H.R. 3054—True American Heroes Act

H.R. 3054 would authorize the President to present a Congressional gold medal to the families of public safety officers, emergency workers, and other employees of state and local government agencies who perished while responding to the attacks on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center.

The bill also would authorize duplicate medals to be presented to various officials of New York, as well as each precinct house, fire station, or other duty station that had a member perish in the attacks. H.R. 3054 would authorize the U.S. Mint to sell bronze duplicates of the medal, and allow the proceeds from those sales to be used to erect a memorial for the fallen emergency workers who responded to the attacks.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3054 would cost approximately \$3.8 million in 2002, mostly for the cost of gold to produce about 550 medals. CBO estimates that the first gold medal would cost about \$35,500 to produce, including around \$5,500 for the cost of the gold and around \$30,000 for the costs to design, engrave, and manufacture the medal. Funds collected from the sale of bronze duplicate medals would be available for the cost of a memorial to emergency workers killed in the attacks. CBO estimates that \$1 million to \$2 million would be collected and later spent as a result of such sales. Over a few years the net budget impact would be insignificant.

Because the bill would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. H.R. 3054 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director of Budget Analysis.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the True American Heroes Act. The men and women who died on September 11th serving our country by saving lives deserve not only our immense gratitude, but also the highest of honors.

Out of tragedy, our nation has emerged stronger and prouder than ever. Our spirit is inspired by the stories of brave men and women from that day—true American heroes.

In our darkest hours on September 11, the heroes in our midst shined brighter than ever. We know some heroic endeavors that were undertaken from stories about cell phone calls and from eyewitness accounts.

On United Airlines Flight #93 passengers called loved ones alerting them that their plane had been hijacked. One of my constituents, Jeremy Glick, called his wife Lyzbeth from that flight. Jeremy was part of the fearless effort to stop the terrorists from taking the plane into the heart of Washington, D.C.

From his cell phone conversation, we know that Jeremy along with other passengers and crew chose to fight the terrorists who had commandeered the plane. At 10:37 a.m., United Flight #93 crashed in Pennsylvania, just minutes after the White House and the Capitol Building had been evacuated.

Always a hero to his wife, his family and his friends, Jeremy Glick became a hero to the nation on September 11th, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, days after the September 11 attacks, I introduced H.R. 2921 to authorize the President to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Jeremy Glick for his bravery, courage and service to his nation. We must honor all the heroes of the United Flight 93. Today, this House formally recognizes his contribution and all the heroes of that fateful day.

So, too, do we recognize the bravery of many Americans who died in Lower Manhattan.

Some were our neighbors.