

This week the House pauses to remember those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on our nation some nine years ago. My district suffered casualties that day, including Cranbury, New Jersey businessman Todd Beamer. Todd's words, "Let's Roll", were the prelude to the first act in striking back against the terrorist who had hijacked Flight 93. His sacrifice and that of the other passengers and crew aboard Flight 93 undoubtedly save many lives that terrible day. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Lisa, and his children, David, Drew, and Morgan Kay, and to all the other families who lost loved ones on that day.

Nine years later, the memory of that terrible day remains fresh for those who lost someone dear to them. At the memorial service in Middletown in my district, we recalled the names of the fallen, including Stephen Cangialosi, Kathleen Hunt, Robert Parks, Edward Desimone, and Brendan and Roseanne Lang--just some of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. My thoughts also turned to Richard Guadagno, formerly of Trenton and the manager of the Humbolt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, who perished on Flight 93. We owe debt of gratitude to the families of the victims for pressing for an investigation into how the attacks happened and how to prevent future tragedies. Kristin Breitweiser, Nikki Stern, Ginny Bauer, and other affected families from across the country demonstrated the power of citizen action. We will never forget these people, nor the courage and dedication of those they left behind and who continue to remind of us of the need to honor their memory and their sacrifice.

I've spent many of my years in Congress since the 9/11 attacks working to prevent a repeat of that tragedy. We are safer today in many ways than before 9/11, but there is still much for us to do. The best way we can honor those Americans who lost their lives on that day is to continue working to make our country safer still. Osama bin Laden and his band of murderers inflicted great physical harm on our country and our citizens, but neither he nor terrorists like him will never be able to break our spirit or cause us to walk away from our friends around the world.