

On The One-Year Anniversary of September 11th

September 11, 2002
Remarks of Congressman Steve Rothman
On The One-Year Anniversary of September 11th

“We come here today, as one community, to reflect on the events of September 11, 2001. On that terrible day, a group of evil men murdered more than 3,000 innocent American men, women, and children -- here on American soil -- as their co-conspirators attempted to kill thousands more.

“Today, we still mourn the loss of our fellow citizens: those trying to reach safety and those who deliberately placed themselves in harms way (who saved literally tens of thousands of their fellow Americans in the process). We will also never forget those who were injured and who are still suffering from the wounds, physical and emotional, that were inflicted upon them. We will never forget the heroism and sacrifice of those -- many of whom are with us today -- who responded immediately and selflessly, who prevented a terrible ordeal from being even worse.

“And so, while we will always continue to remember what happened, we must also continue our nation’s effort to bring to justice and punish those who perpetrated these terrible acts and those who are planning new ones. Government’s first priority is, after all, to protect the people, and as your representative in Congress, I assure you that Congress is taking every step to see that our government meets every need for our homeland security and for our national defense: from strengthening our borders, to improving law enforcement and intelligence capabilities, to ensuring that our military is fighting with superior forces and weapons. We never forget that we Americans depend on our government to protect us.

“We are forever grateful to the men and women in law enforcement and in our armed forces, (here and around the world), who put their lives at risk so that we may keep our country and her people safe and free.

“Is America a perfect nation? Are we as individuals perfect people? No, America is not perfect, and none of us have ever met a perfect person. But what we have in America is the greatest nation the world has ever known -- a country committed to freedom, democracy, and equal justice under the law. An imperfect country, but one whose principles of freedom of speech and expression allow us and even demand us to continually seek to make our nation more perfect in its realization of our founding principles. We are still the shining beacon of hope and liberty for every nation in the world and every man, woman, and child on this planet.

“Finally, we must always remember that in our 226 year history, America has prevailed over many more powerful enemies than the one we face today. It took the lives and sacrifices of countless numbers of Americans. It took money. It took time. It took patience. And it took perseverance. But we prevailed. And make no mistake about it, my fellow Americans, America will prevail again today

“God bless you, my friends, and God bless the United States of America.”
###

[Go back](#)