

September 13, 2006: Statement honoring the victims of September 11, 2001

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez

Floor statement honoring the victims of September 11, 2001

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Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor today to remember and honor the people who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

The victims of September 11th came from all walks of life and each and every one of them is sorely missed by the friends, family, and this country.

I would also like to honor the many brave first responders and volunteers that selflessly rushed to help save lives during the attack, and everyone who has worked to help individuals, families, cities, and our whole country start to recover and heal in the months and years since September 11th 2001.

Today the House was supposed to bring up a bill to honor the victims of 9/11, and all those who helped to respond after the attack.

Instead, the Republican Majority has brought up H. Res. 994, a politically divisive bill. A bill which is more of an exercise in self-congratulation, than a solemn and respectful memorial. I regret to say it, the Majority has, once again, chosen to use this occasion to score political points, to drive a wedge between Americans by talking about politics, instead of bringing us together as we were on September 11th.

This is not a time for partisanship.

This is a time to come together to honor the people who gave so much on 9/11.

If we are going to use this occasion to talk policy, then we should be looking head. Talking about what we can do in the future to prevent another terrorist attack, like passing a law which implements ALL of the 9/11 Commission recommendations.

There is much left that needs to be done on that front.

We need to ensure that all cargo and people passing through our border are screened and accounted for.

We need a law to increase the security of our rail and mass transit systems to ensure that we do not experience an attack like the ones that occurred in Madrid, London, and Mumbai.

We need to ensure that our law enforcement agencies have interoperable communication so that they can respond quickly and work together to save lives during any incident.

Together, I am confident, that we can implement all of the 9/11 Commission recommendations and prevent future terrorist attacks. And if we do that, we will truly honor the memories of 9/11. Thank you.