

On the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, I join every American in honoring the innocent men, women, and children who lost their lives to those attacks. I pay tribute to their memory, and extend my deepest sympathies to the loved ones they left behind.

I also honor the brave first responders—the firefighters, policemen, and ordinary citizens—who so courageously risked and, in many cases, gave their lives for others.

Over the past seven years, Americans have worked tirelessly to prevent further attacks and protect the American people. The 110th Congress joined them with a focus on keeping our country safe, and wisely implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. We now have vastly improved security on our rail and public transit systems, more robust screening of aircraft and seaborne cargo, and strengthened law enforcement capabilities.

Those who perpetrated the attacks of September 11, 2001 must be brought to justice. I am determined to see the next administration rectify the grave mismanagement that has allowed many of these terrorists to go unpunished.

We must also acknowledge that today's threats – terrorism, global economic upheaval, worldwide epidemics, and environmental devastation – are nuanced and interconnected and cannot be addressed by military force alone. Protecting our security requires that we cooperate with our neighbors and promote wise governance. We must address global poverty, promote shrewd stewardship of natural resources, and provide aid to developing and devastated peoples.

It is the first-order duty of Congress to keep Americans safe. As we commemorate the seventh anniversary of 9/11, I join Americans across our nation in grieving for loved ones lost, and in honoring the heroes among us. I resolve to do all in my power to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again.