EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF
HON. TAMMY BALDWIN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the eighth anniversary of September 11th to commemorate this momentous day in American history. My heart goes out to the thousands of innocent people who were taken from their loved ones and fellow citizens, and I am mindful of the many sacrifices made by the members of our armed forces and their families as they stand in harm’s way to protect our great nation.

The victims of the September 11th attacks were a microcosm of America. In the Twin Towers, on the hijacked planes, at the Pentagon, there were mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, friends; there were millionaire bond traders and minimum wage busboys; there were service men and women, police officers and firefighters; there were people of every race and religion, from dozens of countries, all with their own dreams and disappointments; all bound by an invisible thread . . . our common humanity. And we are forever bound to them, and to each other.

September 11th, 2001 was one of our nation’s darkest days. But it illuminated some simple and important truths . . . that it means something special to be an American—something more than the happenstance of where you were born. It relates to the unending quest on the part of “we the people” to “form a more perfect union” and to a concept of the common good. Being an American means having a commitment to our collective well-being.

In memory of all those who perished on September 11th, in respect to the survivors, in gratitude to the rescuers, and for the sake of ourselves and our posterity, I recall the words of President Kennedy: “Let us not be blind to our differences—let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least let us direct attention of President Kennedy: “Let us not be blind to our differences—let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least let us direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least let us direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least let us direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved.

Mr. Speaker, during the vote on H. Res. 215 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Minority Business Development Agency, a member of the Department of Commerce. Established on March 5, 1969, the Minority Business Development Agency is the only federal agency specifically created to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in America. With five regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, New York and San Francisco, the Minority Business Development Agency network offers a broad range of services to minority entrepreneurs that are strategically located in areas with large concentrations of minority businesses. As a Representative of an area with a large concentration of minority-owned businesses, and as a business owner myself, I am especially aware of the services provided by the Minority Business Development Agency business specialists.

Created in the midst of the Civil Rights Era, the Minority Business Development Agency has participated in many extraordinary events and left an impresionable footprint in its four decades of work. It participated with the International Trade Administration in the first trade mission to Bahrain, and many ITA missions with minority business delegations followed due to the success of this mission. Additionally, the Agency coordinated and supported disaster relief efforts for minority businesses following the devastating aftermath of the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the hurricanes that ravaged many of the coastal communities along the Gulf of Mexico.

With a current focus on access to capital for minority-owned businesses, I look forward to celebrating the 40th Anniversary of this organization. I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40 years of prosperity and endeavoring to advance minority businesses in our nation.