

WASHINGTON (September 9) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) issued the following statement regarding the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks that will be commemorated this coming Sunday, September 11, 2011.

The House of Representatives today held a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the attacks and the troops who have given their lives to protect America's freedom.

On the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we first pause to honor the innocent victims who were killed and the brave soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism. □ We remember all of them and their families in our prayers on a most solemn day of reflection. We also thank our first responders for their courageous service during a time of extreme peril.□

The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon shocked all of us and, if not for the brave actions of the passengers who brought down Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, the U.S. Capitol might have been struck as well. There is not a day that I see the Capitol Dome that I do not reflect on that.□

Osama bin Laden's target was not just physical buildings, but our American economic system and our core values of democracy and individual liberty. We have held tight to those precious values and rejected the ideology of hate in favor of the ideal of freedom. The fight has not been without challenge, but Osama bin Laden and many of his al-Qaeda conspirators have been captured or killed. The U.S. is now more vigilant against terrorism. We are safer than we were ten years ago, but as this week's advisories again remind us, we must remain on watch.□

Terrorists tried to bring us to a standstill. But we as Americans showed our determination and resiliency. From the smoke and ruins of New York City, Washington, and Pennsylvania, we moved to rebuild, recover, and move forward. On 9/11/2011, we also stop to remember. We think about the many lives lost far too early and, on this day of unity and commemoration, we again give gratitude for the extraordinary privilege we have to call ourselves Americans.

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