

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement today on the bipartisan resolution commemorating the anniversary of 9/11:

“A decade ago, the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, changed our world. Today, we reflect on the ways that we have changed in the wake of that dark day; we reflect on both heroism and mistakes, on brave sacrifices and on the deaths of so many we loved.

“But some things, those deepest and closest to what we are as a nation, have not changed. We still stand united in memory of the dead. We still stand in awe of the heroic sacrifices that graced that day, and so many since. We still stand in resolve to defend our nation and its most sacred ideals: ideals like freedom of conscience, the rule of law, and religious tolerance.

“This resolution honors the memory of our dead and commemorates the attack on America, its values, and its institutions. Even after all that has come and gone on the world scene over the past ten years—even after the death of the man responsible for the attack, and even after two wars launched in its wake—and even in the midst of all that divides us, we stand as one in our commitment to keep alive the names and memories of the dead.

“There are those for whom the grief of September 11th is still as painful today as it was ten years ago; there are those for whom the pain of that day has faded; and there are many who have been born into a world in which 9/11 is a fact in a history book. But we mark this memorial in order to reclaim some of the unity that was ours on that day—so that, whether or not we were there, whether or not we lost those we love, we can take time from our lives to comfort one another, to reflect with one another, and to teach one another.

“As long as we live, we will tell the story of the first responders, including firefighters and police officers, who sacrificed on that day. We will tell the story of the heroism of the passengers of United Flight 93. We will tell the story of the troops who have served and are serving under our flag, far from home, and of the thousands who have lost their lives in our nation’s service. And we will renew our resolve: our resolve to defend America from those who mean it harm with all

of the tools at our disposal; our resolve to the principles that give our nation its meaning and mission; and our resolve to remain, in the face of all threats, a fearless, strong, and united people.”