

Statement of Congressman Bob Filner To the Heroic Firefighters

"When flames threaten neighborhoods — when fires threaten lives — most turn and flee. As firefighters, you head directly into the heart of danger. Your bravery and your selflessness remind me of a quote from the twenty-sixth President of the United States, Teddy Roosevelt."

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

"Your courage has inspired me to vote for a bill that will provide \$500 million in immediate relief to the victims of the fire. I had serious concerns with other sections of the bill. But the devotion, dedication, and sacrifice you have shown to the people of San Diego County has inspired me to support these relief funds. We must take care of the tens of thousands of California fire victims immediately."

"On behalf of my constituents and all Californians, thank you for a job well done."