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**J. Randy Forbes**  
**United States Congress**  
**4th District, Virginia**

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August 31, 2011

Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

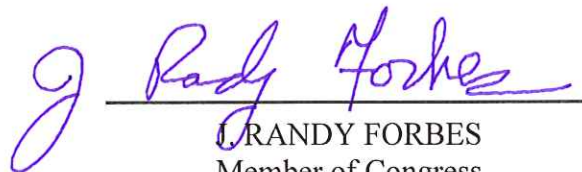
I am troubled by reports that prayer will be excluded from New York City's commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks, and ask that you reverse your decision to ensure that prayer is included in the observance.

I write as Chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, a bipartisan group of 89 Members of the United States House of Representatives dedicated to affirming the vital role that prayer has played and continues to play in America. During our nation's most trying times, the American people have turned to God as their source for protection, wisdom, strength, and direction.

On September 11, 2001, individuals across our nation prayed. Victims of the attacks prayed for help; their family members prayed to be reunited with loved ones; first-responders prayed for strength and wisdom as they risked their lives. Millions prayed as they watched the events unfold on televisions across America, asking God to comfort those whose lives had been shattered, and invoking his wisdom to make sense of these senseless attacks.

On that day ten years ago—as it has done throughout history—prayer helped to sustain and comfort our grieving nation. I urge you to reverse your decision and include prayer in this year's September 11th commemoration ceremony, providing an opportunity for those affected most by the attacks to seek continued strength and solace.

Sincerely,

  
J. RANDY FORBES  
Member of Congress