"Today we mark the eighth anniversary of the attacks of September 11th. My heart goes out, especially to the families of the First District, who lost loved ones on that day in the Pentagon. On that date, America renewed the commitments which have been met by generations of Americans throughout history and which we continue to fulfill today. These include standing firm in the face of tyranny, remaining vigilant against those who seek to harm America and its allies at home and abroad, and defending the rights and liberties of those too weak to defend themselves.

WASHINGTON, DC - Members of America's government -- federal to local, have a continued obligation to stand by our service members and citizens, to provide them the tools to ensure our national security. Although nearly a decade has passed, we remain resolute, and so do our soldiers, seamen, marines, airmen, and coastguardsmen around the globe. It is through their efforts in concert with our intelligence services which have kept the enemy at bay. We will not rest, we will not tire, and we will not relent. May God bless you and may He continue to bless America."

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.