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## *House of Representatives*

### **Recognizing the Christening of the USS SOMERSET**

**HON. MARK S. CRITZ**  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, July 18, 2012*

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the christening of the USS SOMERSET. On July 28, 2012, the USS SOMERSET will become the latest San Antonio class landing platform/dock (LPD) to join our Navy's fleet. This ship will commemorate the valor and courage of the 40 passengers and crew of United Flight 93 who gave their lives to protect our way of life on September 11, 2001.

In waters across the globe, the USS SOMERSET will continue the fight for freedom that the United Flight 93 passengers and crew began. Wherever the ship travels, her impregnable exterior will symbolize our impregnable resolve to honor their memory and to continue their legacy of sacrifice for the greater good.

About 22 tons of steel taken from a crane near the Flight 93 crash site in Shanksville,

PA has been incorporated into the ship's bow stem. Like the steel from that crane, the American people have taken a new form since 9/11. We are stronger and more resilient than we were prior to that fateful day. Like the steel from that crane, we have emerged from the tragic events of September 11th ready and eager to take on new challenges, embark on new journeys and explore new horizons.

The USS SOMERSET is the last of three ships that have been built in honor of the September 11th victims. The USS NEW YORK, christened in March 2008, was built as a tribute to the individuals who lost their lives at the World Trade Center and the USS ARLINGTON, christened in March 2011, was built as a tribute to the servicemembers and civilians who perished at the Pentagon.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the christening of the USS SOMERSET with great pride. It is my most sincere hope that the delivery of this ship will provide the family members and friends of the passengers and crew of United Flight 93 with some measure of solace. For the USS SOMERSET will carry the story and sacrifice of their loved ones to the Sailors and Marines tasked with defending our freedoms, promoting peace and providing assistance across our oceans.