

MOBILE - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Alabama today issued the following statement marking the second anniversary of the al Qaeda terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001:

"Although two years removed, the tragic events of September 11, 2001, are still very much on our minds today. The images of the terrorist attacks perpetrated on our shores that day will not soon be forgotten, nor will the pain that thousands of men, women and children who saw so many of their parents, siblings, children and friends taken from them in an instant. Their lives — and the lives of millions of Americans across this great nation — were changed forever on that day.

"Beginning with the efforts of the passengers on board United Flight 93 high above the Pennsylvania countryside, the United States has fought back — and with a swiftness that not even the terrorists could have expected. We have swiftly prosecuted the war on terrorism on many fronts and have in a short time eliminated many of the threats to international peace and security. It would certainly be a mistake to assume that all the sources of danger to our country and to the world are gone; indeed, as the recent conflict in Iraq and ongoing operations in Afghanistan have demonstrated, there is much work remaining before the world is truly free of terror. However, we should recognize our military and our government have performed admirably in working to once again ensure we can all live in the shadow of the freedom and liberty upon which our country was founded.

"As each of you and your families take the opportunity to reflect on the heroism displayed on that fateful day by so many brave men and women in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., and as we consider the lessons we as a nation have learned, I hope you will also take time to look around and see how you can be a hero within your own community. Many organizations have scheduled memorial services and community assistance activities that will benefit our friends and neighbors in south Alabama, in many instances those who cannot help themselves and who are most in need. I have encouraged members of my staff to take advantage of one of the many volunteer opportunities that will exist on September 11, and I hope each of you will do the same.

"Above all else, I hope each of you will continue to keep our president, the leaders of our administration and most especially the families of all September 11th

victims, and the men and women of our armed forces and their families, in your thoughts and prayers throughout the weeks and months ahead."