

**9/11 FAMILIES & SURVIVORS UNITED FOR JUSTICE AGAINST TERRORISM**  
**Post Office Box 70**  
**New Vernon, New Jersey 07976**

December 1, 2016

Members of the House of Representatives  
United States Senators  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Military/September 11 Family Support for the Justice Against  
Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA)

Dear Senator or Representative:

We write to you as family members of those murdered in the September 11 Attacks who have a special, personal connection to the United States armed forces. We include families of military personnel killed in the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon, members of the military who survived but were severely injured in the Pentagon attack, family members of veterans killed in the 9/11 attacks, veterans who lost loved ones in the attacks, and close relatives of men and women who are active duty or retired military. Our purpose for writing is to urge you to stand firm in support of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act and to protest the absurd suggestions that this law puts members of our armed forces in jeopardy.

This letter became necessary because the Saudi Government is spending more than \$1.3 million monthly on a massive lobbying and public relations campaign to spread misinformation about JASTA so that Congress is fooled into gutting the law before it has a chance to work. These Saudi foreign agents have been engaged in many grotesque distortions of what JASTA does, but none of those lies has been more offensive than the claim that JASTA puts American troops at risk by limiting the sovereign immunity of foreign nations for terrorist acts. These false Saudi claims are inimical to the interests of the United States, and the Saudi campaign to promote them should be viewed as an act of aggression towards America.

The fact is that JASTA does absolutely nothing to put U.S. troops at risk, nor does it make any dramatic changes to sovereign immunity law. It provides a small exception to the limited sovereign immunity *of foreign states* where Americans are injured in the United States due to an act of international terrorism caused by the tortious act of a foreign state, and it expressly preserves foreign state immunity where the claim might be for an omission or act that constitutes mere negligence. In other words, JASTA is extremely narrow.

The Saudi-funded campaign would have you believe that other nations are going to enact “reciprocal” laws that target our troops, but the terms of JASTA are clear. JASTA has nothing to do with the immunity of individual foreign officials or employees, but instead is about foreign countries. It has nothing to do with foreign nations’ military actions, specifically excluding any “act of war” from its scope, and defining “international terrorism” narrowly. Neither the United

States generally – and certainly not our armed forces – have anything to fear from other nations enacting JASTA laws.

Moreover, the Saudi lobbyists are surely aware that it is the official policy of the United States to negotiate Status of Forces Agreements applicable to U.S. military personnel stationed abroad that are carefully crafted to protect U.S. military personnel from being subject to claims in foreign court systems. These agreements are the tool the United States has employed since World War II to protect U.S. troops stationed abroad from the risk of suits in foreign courts – a risk the U.S. has been dealing with effectively for decades and that has nothing at all to do with JASTA. Nothing in JASTA will have any impact on their enforceability.

This outrageous Saudi claim is even more offensive given that the main threat our military men and women face is the spread of violent Islamist extremism around the globe. The Saudis have long supported the corrupt religious ideology that provided the fuel to the September 11 hijackers and continues to inspire terrorists worldwide, including ISIS. Our troops are not at risk because U.S. terrorism victims are holding foreign nations to account for supporting terrorists. They are at risk because they must fight to protect us against the Islamist fanaticism that has long found its home in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. Our family members who died in the September 11 Attacks deserve better than to see Congress cowed by distortions from foreign agents of the very nation so heavily responsible for this phenomenon.

JASTA is good for America, including those serving in the armed forces. Congress was wise to ignore the Saudi distortion campaign earlier this year, and it will be even wiser to allow JASTA to work as intended.

Sincerely,

**John B. Lynch**

Bronx, NY  
U.S. Army (ret.)  
Father of Michael Frances Lynch, killed at WTC (FDNY).

**Judi Reiss**

Yardley, PA  
Mother of Joshua Scott Reiss, killed at WTC (Cantor) and daughter of WWII veteran and granddaughter and great-niece of WWI veterans.

**James S. Gray, Jr.**

Manalapan, NJ  
US Army (1966-68; First Lt. Military Police Corps)  
Father of Christopher Gray, killed at WTC (Cantor).

**Laurie Laychak**

Manassas, VA  
Wife of David William Laychak, civilian employee of U.S. Army killed at Pentagon and daughter to career officer of U.S. Navy.

**Edgar B. Wooley III**

Rock Hill, NY

U.S. Navy (1961-1965)

Brother of David T Wooley, killed at WTC (NYFD and former U.S. Army).

**David W. Carpenter, Jr.**

Clayton, NC

9/11 Survivor (FDNY) and former U.S. Army.

**Cheryl O'Brien**

Lexington, MA

Daughter of Thelma Cuccinello, killed on Flight 11 and daughter of Albert Cuccinello, former U.S. Marine.

**Douglas Connors**

Quincy, MA

Brother Kevin P. Connors at WTC (EuroBrokers), who was a graduate of U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis (1969) and son of a WWII twice Purple Heart recipient in the Battle of the Bulge.

**Harold Meyers**

Hilton Head Island, SC

**William Sergio**

Lake Grove, NY

9/11 Survivor (FDNY) and Father of Active Duty US Coast Guard, William Sergio Jr.

**Sylvia Carver**

White Plains, MD

Sister of Sharon Ann Carver, civilian employee of U.S. Army, killed at Pentagon and sister of retired U.S. Air Force TSgt Sergeant.

**Veronica Carver**

White Plains, MD

Sister of Sharon Ann Carver, civilian employee of U.S. Army, killed at Pentagon and sister of retired U.S. Air Force TSgt Sergeant.

**Reginald Carver**

Spotsylvania, VA

Brother of Sharon Ann Carver, civilian employee of U.S. Army, killed at Pentagon and brother of retired U.S. Air Force TSgt Sergeant.

**Janet Carver**

Oxon Hill, MD

Sister of Sharon Ann Carver, civilian employee of U.S. Army, killed at Pentagon and sister of retired U.S. Air Force TSgt Sergeant.

**Tangela Wilkes**

Arlington, VA

Daughter of Sharon Ann Carver, civilian employee of U.S. Army, killed at Pentagon and sister of retired U.S. Air Force TSgt Sergeant.

**Albert P. Petrocelli**

Staten Island, NY

US Army (1967-1968, VietNam)

Father of Mark James Petrocelli, killed at WTC (Carr Futures).

**Sarah Carrington**

Devon, UK

Sister of Jeremy Carrington, killed at WTC (Cantor) and daughter of retired British Army Officer.

**Devora (Pontell) Kirschner**

Woodstock, MD

Wife of Lieutenant Darin H. Pontel, US Navy, killed in the Pentagon.

**Rosaleen Shea**

Bellerose Village, NY

Sister of Mary Yolanda Dowling, killed at WTC (AON) and niece of former U.S. Navy.

**David Sedacca**

Brewster, NY

9/11 Survivor (FDNY) and former U.S. Marine.

**Rev. Craig W. Sincock, PhD**

U.S. Army (Retired) and

Husband of Cheryle D. Sincock, killed in the Pentagon.

**Joseph Ianelli**

Monroe, NJ

U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Father of Joseph A. Ianelli, killed at WTC (Marsh & McLennan).

**Maureen Roma**

Sister to Keith Roma, killed at WTC (NY Fire Patrolman) and former wife of U.S. Air Force Major.

**Theresa M Frakes**

Palmyra, VA

Sister of Robert Fangman, killed on Flight 175 and daughter of WWII veteran, sister of U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force veterans, and sister-in-law to two U.S. Army veterans.

**Hector L. Hernandez**

U.S. Air Force (ret.) and civilian contractor

Brother of Norberto Hernandez and brother-in-law of Claribel Hernandez, both killed at WTC.

**Ralph Pepe**

Staten Island, NY

9/11 Survivor (FDNY)

Former USMC and father of USAF.

**Jim D. Richards**

East Meadow, NY

Brother of Det. Claude Daniel Richards, killed at WTC (NYPD), who was also U.S. Army Airborne Ranger, and brother of U.S. Army Vietnam veteran and U.S. Navy veteran.

**Bill McGinly**

Vienna, VA

Father of Mark Ryan McGinly, killed at WTC (Carr Futures) and father of Andrew M. McGinley, U.S. Navy.

**Renato C. Olaes**

The Villages, FL

Husband of 9/11 Survivor, Dalisay S. Olaes, U.S. Army (ret.).

**Holly Miller**

Bigfork, Montana

Widow of Master Special Officer Craig J Miller, killed at Pentagon (U.S. Secret Service, and honorably served in the U.S. Army).

**Martin Toyen**

Boynton Beach, FL

U.S. Army (ret.)

Father of Amy E. Toyen, killed at WTC.

**Desiree E. Bernstein**

Brooklyn, New York

Former U.S. Navy

Sister-in-law of William Bernstein, killed at WTC (Cantor)

**Christopher Whitford**

Rock Tavern, NY

U.S. Army Reserves (Command Sergeant Major) and Brother of Mark P. Whitford, killed at WTC (FDNY)

**Roger Fernandez**

Manasquan, NJ

9/11 Survivor (WTC) and father of U.S. Marine.

**Cheryl Desmarais**

Short Hills, NJ

Wife of Mark Charette, killed at WTC (Marsh & McLennan), who was U.S. Navy veteran.

**Sharon Schultz**

Great Neck, NY

Wife of Karamo Trerra, killed at WTC and daughter of U.S. Army veteran.

**Michael A. Conner**

Boca Raton, FL

U.S. Air Force (1967-1970)

Husband of Margaret M. Conner, killed at WTC (Cantor).

**Diana Winuk**

Salem, SC

Former U.S. Marine

Sister-in-law of Glenn Winuk, killed at WTC (Holland & Knight).

**Lisa Inzerillo**

Kings Park, NY

Wife of William Krukowski, killed at WTC (FDNY) and former U.S. Marine.

**Julie Chapa Field**

Whispering Pines, NC

Daughter of RoseMary Chapa, DIA, killed at Pentagon.

**Richard R. Field**

Whispering Pines, NC

Son-in-Law of RoseMary Chapa, DIA, killed at Pentagon.

**Joseph McAuley**

Smithtown, NY

9/11 survivor (WTC) and Father of US Army veteran.

**Natalie C. Conners**

Woodbridge, VA

Daughter of Retired LTC Robert J. Hymel, USAF, killed in Pentagon.

**Ed Russin**

Morganville, NJ

U.S. Army National Guard

Father of Steven Russin, killed at WTC (Cantor).

**Martha Carden Gilchrist**

Sevierville, TN

9/11 Survivor, Pentagon

Department of Army Civilian, 35 yrs.

**Robert Kobus**

Morristown, NJ

U.S. Coast Guard Reserve (2000 -2012) and

Brother of Deborah Kobus, killed at WTC (Chuo Mitsui).

**Joaquim T. Dearaujo**

Watertown, MA

Former US Naval Reserve and

Son of Dorothy A deAraujo, killed on flight 175.

**David M Yancey**

Alexandria, VA

Former U.S. Navy and Husband of Vicki L Yancey, former U.S. Navy and a U.S. Navy contractor killed on Flight 77.

**Joseph Shontere**

La Plata, MD

Father to Angela Houtz, civilian employee of Navy, killed in Pentagon.

**Patrick J. Keane**

Quincy, MA

Son of Richard Michael Keane, killed at WTC (Marsh & McLennan), who was U.S. Marine (Captain).

**Alice Bertorelli**

Oceanside, NY

Sister to John Talignani, U.S. Army (ret.), killed on Flight 93.

**Michael J. Wholey**

Stony Point, NY

Father of Officer Michael T. Wholey (NY Port Authority), who was former U.S. Navy.

**Paul Kirwin**

New Rochelle, NY

Former U.S. Marine (Captain)

Father of Glenn Davis Kirwin, killed at WTC (Cantor).

**Anthony Scolavino**

Brooklyn, NY

9/11 Survivor (FDNY)

U.S. Army (1979-1982) and father of Christopher Scolavino, Cadet (United States Military Academy -West Point).

**Julia Shontere**

La Plata, MD

Mother of Angela Houtz, Civilian employee of the Navy, killed at Pentagon.

**Frank V. Racaniello**

Little Neck, NY

Former U.S. Army (Active and Reserve in Vietnam era, assigned to JAG) and Father of Christopher Racaniello, killed at WTC (Cantor).

**Sandra L. Racaniello,**

Little Neck, NY

Wife of Frank Racaniello, former U.S. Army (Active and Reserve in Vietnam era, assigned to JAG) and Mother of Christopher Racaniello, killed at WTC (Cantor).

**Anne Wodenshek**

Ridgefield, NJ

Daughter of Robert K Gerne USN(Ret).

**Anthony Morabito**

Omaha, Nebraska

Navy Submarine retired (lost his brother-in-law in WTC).

**Barbara Jackman**

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Husband USAR (Ret).

**Charles Clyne**

Lindenhurst NY

USN (Ret).

**Colleen Amato**

Maspeth, NY

Granddaughter of U. S. Air Force WW II veteran

Niece of U. S. Navy Officer (retired)

Niece of U. S. Army Vietnam veteran.

**Curtis F. Brewer**

New York, NY

Spouse of Carol Keyes Demitz (South Tower) Proud Daughter/Granddaughter of West Point Graduates; Colonel Robert S. Demitz and General Jeffrey Keyes.

**Donald E. Paris**

Irvine, CA 92614

Captain, USMC(Ret)

Son-in-Law of James A. Trentini, Major USAR(Ret) and Passenger on American Airlines Flight 11.

**Eileen Tallon**

Yonkers, NY

Mother of Sean Patrick Tallon USMC(Res) and FDNY (WTC).



**Jacob D. Adams**

Delphi, Indiana  
USMC (2005-2014).

**Jasmine Victoria**

Austin, TX  
Cousin (Deceased's Nephew), US Army(Ret)  
Grandfather (Deceased's Father-in-law), US Army(Ret).

**John Ashton**

Woodside, NY  
Son of U. S. Air Force WW II veteran  
Brother of U. S. Navy Officer (retired)  
Brother-in-law of U. S. Army Vietnam veteran.

**Lt Col. John F. Shull, US Army (Retired)**

Annapolis, MD  
Brother-in-Law to Captain John Fischer, killed in NYC Trade Center rescue effort.

**John V. Quigley**

Fredericksburg, VA  
U.S. Navy Commander (retired)  
Brother to Patrick J. Quigley, killed on UA75 on 9/11  
Son of Patrick J. Quigley Sr (retired U.S. Army).

**Kathleen Ashton**

Woodside, NY  
Daughter-in-law of U. S. Air Force WW II veteran  
Sister-in-law of U. S. Navy Officer (retired)  
Niece of U. S. Army WW II veteran  
Sister-in-law of U. S. Army Vietnam veteran.

**Lowell Bell**

Colorado Springs, CO.  
Colonel, USAF Retired.

**Mary Buckley**

Woodside, NY  
Granddaughter of U. S. Air Force WW II veteran  
Niece of U. S. Navy Officer (retired)  
Niece of U. S. Army Vietnam veteran.

**Manuela Nita-Vazquez**

Whitestone NY

Wife of USMC(ret).

**Pamela B. Trentini**

Danvers, MA 01923

Daughter of James A. Trentini, Major USAR(Ret) and Passenger on American Airlines Flight 11.

**Patti J. Trentini**

Irvine, CA 92614

Daughter of James A. Trentini, Major USAR(Ret) and Passenger on American Airlines Flight 11.

**Rosaleen DaRos**

Yonkers, NY

Sister of Sean Patrick Tallon USMC(Res) and FDNY First Responder WTC.

**Susan Hutchins**

East Meadow NY

Aunt of active duty Marine stationed in Persian Gulf.

**Thomas Gitto USMC**

West Palm Beach, Florida

(lost my brother in WTC).

**William Deverson**

Margate, Florida

US Army (lost his Brother-in-law in WTC).