

The Honorable Paul E. Kanjorski
U.S. Representative of Pennsylvania (1985–2011)

Imagining the Worst

Representative Kanjorski describes how Members responded to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Interview recorded October 26, 2011

The most remarkable thing that next day was the gawking of all the Members, in anticipating what would have happened if the plane that supposedly was intended for the Capitol had come in, what would it have done, what would be the damage. Sort of looking up, you know, recognizing that the roof of, of the chamber would have been taken off or hundreds of people would have died. To me it wasn't a great deal different than going back to '54. An extraordinary thing had happened, but it was taken in stride and everybody was back in shape. And, and it created a relaxed atmosphere, if you will.