

# Nancy Johnson



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## **Johnson to President Bush: Support Lockerbie Families**

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*Libya Fails Commitment to Victims While US Grants Diplomatic Ties*  
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### **Brookfield & Lakeville Residents Killed Aboard Pan Am 103**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today called on President Bush to make Libya pay its full financial obligation to the victims of Pan Am Flight 103, including two from the 5<sup>th</sup> District, as his administration restores diplomatic ties with the former state-sponsor of terrorism.

In a letter to the President, Johnson and a bipartisan group of representatives said the “United States government must stand on principle, protect our families who were the victims of the Pan Am bombing and ensure that Libya fully pays this settlement.”

In 1988, Libyan terrorists bombed Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 189 Americans, including Harry M. Bainbridge of Lakeville and Elizabeth Lillian Marek of Brookfield.

Libya accepted responsibility for the bombing in August 2003 and agreed to pay \$2.7 billion to the victims’ families. While it has yet to fulfil all of this obligation, Libya has been removed from the government’s official list of state-sponsors of terrorism, and the Bush administration is moving to restore diplomatic ties with the Libyan government.

“If we wish to have a productive diplomatic relationship with Libya, then we must begin by emphasizing the importance of Libya fully honoring its obligations to these American families. Otherwise, we send a dangerous message to Libya and other nations that the United States government does not expect commitments to be honored. As we wage the War on Terror, this is a message we can not afford to send,” Johnson and her colleagues wrote.

The text of the letter is below.

May 24, 2006

Dear Mr. President:

The recent announcement that the United States was removing Libya from the list of

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## Letter Supporting Lockerbie Families/2

designated state sponsors of terror was an important step. While I appreciate the decision of your Administration to restore diplomatic relations with Libya, I do have serious concerns about how this process affects a key issue for American citizens and victims of terrorism. Before the United States goes any further in strengthening our ties with Libya, Libya should fulfill its obligations to the families of the 189 Americans who were killed in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

As you know, Libya made a commitment in 2003 to pay compensation to these families in the amount of \$2.7 billion. While part of that package has been paid, \$536 million of the settlement is still outstanding. Under the agreement reached with the families, this money was to be paid upon Libya's removal from the list of state sponsors of terror. Now that this has happened, the United States government must stand on principle, protect our families who were victims of the Pan Am bombing and ensure that Libya fully pays this settlement.

The United States must always be willing to reach out to potential allies and forge new ties, but we also must take seriously the commitments made by other nations. If we wish to have a productive diplomatic relationship with Libya, then we must begin by emphasizing the importance of Libya fully honoring its obligations to these American families. Otherwise, we send a dangerous message to Libya and other nations that the United States government does not expect commitments to be honored. As we wage the War on Terror, this is a message we can not afford to send.

As we begin this new relationship with Libya, I hope your Administration will take every step necessary to ensure this issue is resolved.

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