*Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement regarding President Obama's announcement confirming that Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks against the United States, has been killed:*

"The killing of Osama bin Laden is a crucial victory in America's ongoing effort to defeat al Qaeda and all those who target America's citizens and homeland. Nearly a decade after September 11th, the mastermind behind the horrific attacks is now dead. I commend the courageous and heroic actions of our troops, the relentlessness of our intelligence community, and the strong leadership of President Obama and his national security team for bringing this terrorist to justice.

"In some ways this news can provide closure and comfort to the many residents of the congressional district I represent, and across America, who lost family members, loved ones, colleagues and friends on that horrific day. Several of those who died on 9/11 were from our part of New York.

"As we move forward, it is important to remember that our fight against terrorism is not yet over. We must continue to ensure that our military and intelligence officers have the tools they need to protect America from the threats posed by al Qaeda. As a member of Congress, I will continue working to ensure that we take every step necessary to keep Americas safe here at home and abroad."