Mr. Speaker, first, I

thank you and your colleagues for

working so hard with all of us to

present a completely united front to

our foes and to the world in this time

of grave emergency in our country.

I rise to address my colleagues,

though today we all know we are more

than that. Today, we are all American

brothers and sisters, because the family

of America has been attacked, and

we have gathered together to begin the

process of healing and then defending

our American family, our beloved Nation.

What was the purpose of Tuesday’s

attack? Terrorism’s simple goal is that

it is embedded in the word ‘‘terrorism’’

itself. It is to create terror. That was

the real goal of Tuesday’s attack. Well,

we can report to the world that we are

fighting and winning the battle against

terror in America today.

In America today, there is a strong,

clear, cold conviction. We will punish

those who committed these acts, and

we will make our Nation safe again.

America is as united as it has been in

its history. Death and tragedy was one

result of Tuesday’s attack. What the

terrorists did not know is that they

would create so much American unity.

The act of terror and inhumanity has

produced American heroism that few

people have witnessed in their lifetimes.

Before our very eyes in the last

3 days we have seen another generation

rise to the moral challenge of our time.

Jeremy Glick, on the United flight

which crashed in Pennsylvania, called

his wife on a cell phone to say his plane

had been hijacked, and three of us, he

said, are going to fight. His wife told

him about the attack on the World

Trade Center. We have credible reason

to believe that he and other passengers

brought down their plane so that others

could live another day.

New York City Fire Chief Peter

Ganci stood with a multichannel radio

at the foot of One World Trade Center,

and with smoke swirling around his

head, trying amid the chaos to organize

the rescue effort, the building collapsed.

The chief died.

New York City Fire Department

Chaplain Mychal Judge went to the

tower to minister to victims. He was

hit by debris in the head. He died.

More than 250 firefighters ran into

the building that others were running

out of so that they could try to get up

the steps to save others. They are all

missing.

Yesterday, when I went to the Pentagon

with Members here, a general

told of how a woman found one person

passed out with fumes in the aftermath

of the attack. She lifted the person up,

he said, threw her from the window and

then saved the person’s life and then

threw herself out the window to save

her own life.

New Yorkers line streets in Manhattan

holding signs and flags in celebration

of our rescue workers going off to

rescue other Americans. Americans descended

on emergency centers, set up

by workers from the Red Cross, stood

for hours in line so they could give

their blood so life could be pumped into

the lives of the wounded.

There was a story this morning on

the radio of a volunteer rescue worker

who said he was in New York digging

through rubble in search for survivors

because, he said, we are digging for

freedom.

Our people, the wonderful, good, decent

people of this country are responding

in heroic ways, and they are

fighting back against this absolute evil

that visited itself on our great country

on Tuesday. They are rising to this

challenge just as earlier generations

have met challenges that confronted

them.

Congress debates this historic resolution

in their spirit and with them for

our inspiration and as our guide. We

literally and figuratively tonight are

following the lead of the American people.

Humanity at its best.

Alexis de Tocqueville in the 19th century

observed about our country and

its people, he said America is great because

she is good, and if America ever

ceases to be good, America will cease

to be great.

Everything that is happening today

is happening because Americans are

still good and America is still great.

Finally, we must recognize and understand

a fundamental truth. Our foes

caused enormous death and destruction,

but their greater goal is to instill

fear in the heart of every American.

We will conquer that foe. We will not

be defeated. We will not succumb. We

will not fear. We will always rise up, as

we have through our history, and we

will face fear down.

Our challenge is to draw on the goodness,

the decency, the bravery, and the

humanity that has always defined this

great country. I know in my heart we

will prevail. We will face this foe, and

we will not adopt the characteristics of

those who attack us. We will not forget

the civil liberties of our people. We will

not discriminate. We will not use prejudice.

We will not succumb to hatred

in fighting this foe. We will not be divided.

Two months ago, the Foreign Minister

in Germany told me that what he

found so impressive about America was

that he had never known such a powerful

Nation to use its power so responsibly.

I have faith in ourselves, in our

fellow human beings; and I have faith

in God to see us through. I am guided

in my belief by my faith, which is best

expressed in the hymn, ‘‘Be Not

Afraid.’’ ‘‘Be not afraid. I go before you

always. Come, follow me, and I will

give you rest.’’

Our people have courage, our military

will defend, our President will

have our support and our trust to bring

our foes to justice; and with God’s help,

we will be free and our people will be

healed.