I thank the gentleman

for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, today I also join the

President of the United States and

Democrats and Republicans from this

House in a place of war and a place of

hope. In the wreckage of the World

Trade Center, we saw the signs of war,

twisted steel, shattered windows,

smoking ruins. But, Mr. Speaker,

amidst the devastation we saw the

signs of America: small flags planted in

the rescue workers’ helmets, people

weary from digging to save lives, yet

still able to raise their hands high over

their heads and chant ‘‘USA, USA’’

when our President arrived.

I met with Long Islanders, my constituents,

one from East Islip, the

other from Huntington Station, who

had been on the scene tirelessly since

this calamity in a heroic effort to save

lives and rebuild our city. I salute

them and all of our unsung heroes who

continue the efforts to provide comfort

in a time of tragedy and save lives in a

time of war.

Mr. Speaker, we did not choose this

fight, it chose us; and now we have no

choice but to strike back in the defense

of our lives, to defend our way of life,

and to remember throughout the ordeal

to come what this fight is about,

the lives that were lost and the freedoms

and liberties that we preserve.