Mr. Speaker, I thank

my colleague, the gentleman from

California (Mr. LANTOS), for managing

the time today on this most important

resolution and for his contributions, as

well as the distinguished gentleman

from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

Mr. Speaker, together we mourn our

Nation’s terrible, terrible losses and

our hearts ache; and we know that the

days ahead will not be very easy. But

in these past difficult days, America

has once again shown the world and

perhaps even ourselves, Mr. Speaker,

just who we are, a land of courage and

generosity and extraordinary quiet heroes;

a people of many colors, faiths,

backgrounds; a people who stand

united, not just in defense of our Nation

but of our most cherished ideals,

freedom, tolerance, diversity, and democracy.

When the world watched our national

prayer service earlier today they heard

the healing words of many faiths. A

Muslim imam, a Jewish rabbi, and

Christian clergy.

These Americans, like the rest of the

world, all worship God in their own

way. But the common faith they share,

what we have witnessed in the torrent

of goodness this week as neighbors help

neighbors and strangers help strangers,

is that hate can never conquer our national

spirit.

We must prepare ourselves for the

uncertain months and perhaps years

ahead. Every one of us will be asked to

give more, to do more, to help pull the

plow of freedom forward.

With this resolution, we commit ourselves

to that endeavor, to bring those

who attacked us on September 11 to

justice and to build a safer world. We

draw strength from our unity of purpose

in the unwavering support of

friends and allies around the world.

Today, we join together not as Democrats

nor Republicans, but Mr. Speaker,

as proud Americans prepared to defend

freedom as our forebears did before

us.