Mr. Speaker, I, too, have

just come back from New York with

the President, and I must say that I

still have the mud all over me. Being a

New Yorker, born and bred, I was not

prepared for what I saw at ground zero.

Ten years ago, Mr. Speaker, I stood

in the well and was one of the Democrats

who crossed party lines to support

the first President Bush in the

Persian Gulf War to do what he needed

to do as our commander in chief, and I

now do the same 10 years later with

President Bush.

This is a very difficult time for all

Americans. We need to band together

to fight this scourge of terrorism, and

I think we know it now more than ever

before. I have never been more proud to

be an American. I have never been

more proud to be a New Yorker, to see

the firemen, the policemen, the iron

workers, and everyone else working together

to try to find more survivors, to

try to do whatever they can to help

each other.

This is going to be a long prolonged

fight. As our President said, it is a war,

a war on terrorism, but a war that we

will win. I am very, very proud; proud

of this body and proud to be an American.

God bless America.