Mr.

Speaker, the events of this past week

clearly have brought this Nation together.

And listening to my colleagues

step forward and address the body

today, I cannot help but reflect on the

events of this past week, in so many

ways surreal in terms of the stunning

manner and catastrophic fashion in

which they unfolded before us: the absolute

horror, the unbelievable human

sacrifice, the unbelievable human effort

and heroism that took place. Even

the elements themselves, happening

during otherwise sunny and beautiful

days, and then just proceeding to our

Cathedral in a mist of rain to mourn

and pray only entering out to the sunshine.

As a Nation, we mourn our innocent

victims, our valiant heroes, our men

and women who wear the uniform who

have perished. It is a time of shared

pain and prayer and a reaching out

with acts of kindness that comfort and

console. It is a time that the Nation, as

we have seen all across this great country

of ours, rolls up its sleeves and

comes together. It volunteers. It gives

blood. It provides its brawn to continue

the efforts to dig out, to recover, to rebuild,

and take heart in what binds us

all in this country: our love of freedom,

our love of this Nation, our deep and

abiding love of one another.

This is also a time of grim resolve.

Shortly, we will be voting on granting

war powers and stand united behind

President Bush and sound forth the

trumpet that shall never call retreat.

There can be no quarter given to the

cowards who perpetrate acts of evil

against innocent people. For these cowards,

the wrath of a just and free people

will be severe. Our resolve is to ferret

out the perpetrators, wherever they

may be, and provide them no place to

hide; with the further resolve that any

Nation that seeks to harbor them, as

the President has indicated earlier this

week, we will make no distinction.

And while there must be no mistake

about our resolve, let there also be no

mistake about the manner in which we

measure the actions we will take and

direct our efforts at terrorists and not

at the innocent.

God bless America.