Mr. Speaker, today, on September 11, I want to take a

moment to reflect on that fateful event on the day of 2001 at the World

Trade Center, the Pentagon, the fields of Pennsylvania, and again in

Benghazi in 2012, and ask that we always remember the resilience and

strength of the greatest Nation on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, there are moments in time when we cease to be

Republicans and Democrats; politics and punditry melt away, divisions

close and differences fade. We come together as Americans, regardless

of race, creed, or religion. September 11, 2001, and again in 2012 were

and will always be such occasions.

On those days, our Nation came together. That is what makes our

Nation great and unique. Not only do we come together to celebrate in

triumph, but we stand together in tragedy.

It is in the face of adversity when our resilience is truly tested,

and as Americans, time and time again, throughout history, we have

passed that test.

Throughout the course of those days heroes ran into buildings and

stormed a cockpit, went into burning embassies. They donated blood when

it was needed and the clothes off their back.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the true America. Not partisan gridlock, not

tension-building punditry, not games of ``gotcha'' or smoke-and-mirrors

legislation.

The rallying cry of that day was simple in phrase but monumental in

meaning: ``U-S-A.''

Country was first. Everything else was second.

As we tackle the monumental challenges that lie ahead, I ask my

colleagues to remember the spirit of that day; to do what is right for

America, not for one party over another.

The heroes of that day did what they did not because of any political

party but because it was simply the right thing to do. It was the

American thing to do.

Americans, regardless of who they voted for, feel the consequences of

our decisions each and every day. Today, of all days, let us all

remember to put our country first and act as true representatives for

the will of all the people.