Mr. Speaker, today marks the 12th anniversary of the

September 11 attacks on our great Nation. Though on that day cowardly

terrorists hijacked the Islamic religion and used it to justify their

murderous acts, what we will remember most is America's strength and

resolve.

In the aftermath, Americans of all backgrounds and faiths united as

one. Service members and first responders ran toward--not away from--the

wreckage. Our Nation continues to set an example to the world as a land

of opportunity, tolerance, and independence, and in keeping with our

founding document, the promise still of life, liberty, and the pursuit

of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, as we witness the construction of One World Trade

Center, we see more than a building rise up through the New York City

skyline. It is truly representative of the resilience of the American

people, which remains unbroken despite these hardships, challenges, and

unthinkable acts.

So today, and every day, we stand tall as Americans as we vow never

to forget.