Mr. Speaker, we all have extremely vivid

memories of this day 12 years ago.

Personally, I remember seeing the clouds of smoke from the Pentagon

through my office window and the panicked feeling I had as I searched

all day for my children who live in New York City but couldn't reach.

I recently saw the emptiness that we all felt captured at Memorial

Plaza. We can honor those we lost by remembering that, after the

immense tragedy of that day, we rose as a Nation, united in the belief

that there was no obstacle we could not overcome together.

Have we lost that spirit?

Many would say that this Congress has been stalled on the best way to

lead this Nation, focusing too much on what divides us, losing sight of

what brings us together.

It is my hope that we will put aside our differences and come

together for the American people. Let us use the sad, traumatic

reminder of today and remember that we are all Americans and we all

want what is best for our families, our communities, and our country.