Mr. President, yesterday marked 10 years since the

horrendous attack of Americans on American soil, but it led to a lot of

patriotism and a lot of flags being displayed all over the country.

Over the weekend, I noticed my 3-year-old granddaughter and my 4-

year-old granddaughter, when they saw a flag hanging anywhere, said

Throughout the history of the United States, each generation has had

at least one iconic moment, one moment in time that served to galvanize

the Nation and call each and every American to take on a cause much

greater than themselves. Ultimately, the results they were able to

achieve served to define who they were as a generation and what they

were capable of, both as individuals and as a nation.

For my father, that moment was the bombing of Pearl Harbor. As we

watched with growing concern, a terrible evil had taken the whole world

to the brink of war. We found we no longer had a choice as to whether

we would get involved. We were forced to take action and bring our

military might to bear against an enemy that had set its sights on

world domination.

As soon as the call went out, brave men and women from all across the

country volunteered to serve in our military and to take up arms to

defend the rights and liberties we cherish as Americans. They soon

proved to be worthy of the task as we once again showed that ours was

the greatest fighting force the world has ever known. Thanks to them,

the tyranny and oppression that threatened to overwhelm Europe was

halted and peace and freedom was once again restored to a war-weary

world.

Returning home from the battlefields on which they had served with

distinction, our service men and women took up another great challenge

and that was to rebuild our Nation and to restore its greatness. Their

commitment and dedication to that great mission helped to make the

United States what it is today. Thanks to them, their sons and

daughters received the greatest gift they could possibly receive, our

American way of life. Their actions made it clear that the American

dream belongs to everyone, and it can come true, if we are willing to

do whatever is necessary to make it happen.

For me and my generation, our iconic moment came with the news that

the Soviet Union had launched Sputnik into space. In that brief moment

in time, we were once again filled with that same determination as we

realized we were in second place in the race for space and in other

things. That would never be acceptable or accepted.

In the days after that startling announcement, people of all ages

found themselves looking to the skies, wondering if we could answer

this daunting challenge. Our curiosity and our ingenuity would again be

put to the test as we all tried to help in the effort to bring about

that that wasn't to come for several

more years.

My friends and I in junior high banded together--although we were all

very young--to help. We wanted to learn all we could about rockets so

we could become rocketeers or at least we tried our best to be worthy

of the title. Once again, we had a difficult goal to reach for, and we

were proud to think of ourselves as part of that call to action.

Of course, President John F. Kennedy then issued the challenge to the

Nation that we would send a man to the Moon and return him safely to

Earth. It sounded impossible, but with American know-how we were able

to develop and put into action a plan that made it happen.

When the time came, the world watched with wonder and amazement as

Neil Armstrong took those first steps on the Moon and proved once again

that whatever goals we set, we always seem to find the tools and talent

we need to get the job done.

For my children, their generation's iconic moment came on September

11, when we were once again cruelly attacked by terrorists who had

hijacked several planes and used them to destroy the World Trade Center

and part of the Pentagon. It was a moment in time that everyone will

long remember for the impact that day and the events surrounding it had

on the world and our lives, an impact that continues to be felt.

Even though it was 10 years ago, for almost all of us, the images of

September 11 are still fresh in our minds. We can remember where we

were when we first heard the news that our Nation was under attack. We

can remember how we felt as we watched the Twin Towers fall and the

sense of loss as the harsh reality of all the lives that were lost that

day became all too real.

There are many lessons learned as we watched the rescue crews, along

with our police and firemen, attempt to save as many as they could from

the building and then from the wreckage. It was a harsh reminder of how

delicate and precious our lives are and how the gift can be taken from

us at a moment's notice.

Yet out of all that was lost, there was the birth of something even

greater, something more powerful and enduring. It was the sense of

community, this sense of country that bound us together as one Nation,

as one American. We stood side by side with our neighbors, our

families, and even complete strangers, looking out for one another and

helping those in need.

Terrorists thought we were a weak nation that would crumble in the

face of violence. Those who wanted to hurt us sent a clear message. Yet

we sent another. American flags sprung up in every yard, flew from

every building, and even hung from our overpasses. The powerfully

simple message of the Stars and Stripes was our message: We are America

and we stand together.

Like those moments before, the morning light the next day brought

with it the firm resolve that we would, once again, come together as

one to address that attack. Political differences would no longer

separate us. Concern for our shared future was so strong it would unite

us to face this threat to our well-being. Together, we resolved we

would do everything we could to ensure that terrorism would never again

take such a terrible toll from our Nation or any other nation.

I remember during that time being at events where ambassadors from

around the world offered an outpouring of sympathy and comfort for our

grieving Nation. I was touched by their sympathy and care for America.

I was also pleased so many countries helped us to follow the money

trails which led to the arrest and prosecution of countless terrorists.

In the years since that terrible day, justice has also been delivered

by our brave service men and women who have once again answered the

call to duty and taken up arms to rid the world of the network of

terror wherever it is found. Thanks to their efforts, nations that had

never known freedom before now dare to dream of a better tomorrow for

themselves and for their children. People who had lived in fear under

the tyranny of oppression will now have a say in their shared future as

citizens of the world. Those who had known nothing but anguish and

despair now have a reason to hope for a better life. The Middle East is

still in turmoil as the people reach for freedom and individual

prosperity.

C.S. Lewis once said:

I think it is clear that the pain we felt that day was sufficient to

rouse us to all the action as it opened our hearts and our minds to God

and each other.

In the days to come, the memories of all we witnessed on September 11

will stay with us and serve as a constant reminder that freedom isn't

free. It often comes to us at all too great a cost. In that spirit we

will never forget those who lost their lives that day, their loved ones

and all who knew them and called them their friends. For this

generation and those who follow, their memory will continue to inspire

us to be ever vigilant and constantly on guard at the gates of freedom

to ensure that this will

continue to be the home of for

ourselves, for our children, and for many generations to come.

Let's remember September 11 and the feelings we had for our country

and each other. May we rekindle the sense of community, country, and

world we felt then. May lasting good come out of chaos.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.