

and I will call up by unanimous consent a joint resolution to condemn yesterday's terrorist acts. That resolution will be addressed by this body under that unanimous consent request with an understanding that we will continue to address it until each Member of this Chamber has had ample time to address this issue as he or she sees fit.

I want to thank all the Members of this body for their patience, their commitment, their understanding, and their resolve during this trying time. Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, by the time the 435 Members of this body have spoken today, the world will have no doubt about who we are, what we will stand for, and what we will not stand for.

#### AMERICA SUFFERS TODAY

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, America, our blessed Nation, suffers today. Terribly. Terrorists sought to use fear as a weapon against every person in this Nation. They do not know America, and they do not know Americans. They think freedom is our vulnerability. It is our strength. We will need that strength in the days ahead. Throughout our proud history we have met every challenge, and we will meet this challenge.

Mr. Speaker, we are united in mourning for all of our fellow citizens who were injured and died. I have been so moved while watching television and seeing the heroism, the courage, the patriotism, the bravery, the goodness of our people trying to help one another, save one another, bind up our wounds, and find those who have been lost. Our hearts go out to every person, every family that has been touched by this awful tragedy, and to all the families at this very moment who are enduring an unspeakable, unimaginable horror in their lives.

In times of national tragedy, Americans have always come together, strengthened our resolve, and faced adversity squarely while giving aid and comfort to every victim, every family member, every relative, every person affected by the tragedy. On this occasion, we are once again showing the world what it means to be an American.

We make a solemn pledge that we will honor all of the victims by committing ourselves to defend our land, our families and our freedom. Today we go back to work in Washington, in New York, and all around the country; and we are determined to show the world that America will not be defeated by anyone.

Finally, we will do everything within our power to bring these heinous terrorists to justice, to address this act of horrible, despicable cowardice, and to ensure that something like this never, ever happens to our people again.

We should also recognize that our public spaces, the heart and soul of

American freedom, American ingenuity and American entrepreneurship, were violated yesterday in the most heinous way. We must, in one voice, work to reassure the American people that they are safe on the streets, in the air, and in all of our buildings no matter where they live or work. This Congress, in a nonpartisan way, will work as hard as humanly possible to make sure that our people have the safety they demand and deserve, and that terror is defeated completely and finally.

Make no mistake, this was an act of war against the United States and all of our people; and we will not be divided. All of us, the President, the Congress, and the American people, are today, and will be tomorrow and in all of the tomorrows, totally and completely united in our determination to begin the process of healing and to take swift action to see that the people who committed this horrible crime are properly punished.

May God shed His grace on this great and wonderful country and all of our people.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive 1-minute speeches on each side until 11 o'clock.

#### AVENGING TERRORIST ATTACK

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, the events of yesterday, September 11, are forever seared into our minds as with branding irons. We grieve for the victims and their families. We pray for them.

Let the word go forth to our enemies. We are united in our resolve to avenge the deaths of our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers, our husbands and wives.

In righteousness, the United States Government will hunt down to the ends of the earth the assassins of our innocent kin and strike them down.

#### TERRORIST ATTACKS WERE ACTS OF WAR

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the darkest day in American history. Pearl Harbor pales in comparison.

I join all other Americans who are shocked and outraged by the terrorist hijackings and attacks on the World Trade Center and on the Pentagon. Last night I saw firsthand the carnage resulting from the attack on the Pentagon.

Let there be no mistake, the United States Government will investigate

and pursue those who were behind this cowardly attack. These terrorist attacks were truly acts of war, and we will respond forcefully and appropriately. The United States will take action against the terrorists and punish those governments that support and harbor such criminals.

This incomprehensible tragedy is a terrible reminder that we must take the threat of terrorism seriously. If Congress and the administration are willing to develop an overall strategy and commit adequate resources, we can prepare an effective defense to protect our American people.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the families of the victims, and I especially express my gratitude to all emergency and law enforcement personnel and other volunteers, many of whom have lost their lives.

I urge all Americans who have a flag, to fly it high and demonstrate we stand united in this moment of tragedy.

#### CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACK

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I join the countless others in this Chamber, in this great Nation, and throughout the world in expressing condolences to the families of the victims of yesterday's deplorable attack. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them.

Mr. Speaker, I also feel a sense of pride for the strength of character and humanity shown by the American people, strength which is shining as a beacon of light, guiding us through this time of darkness and sorrow.

The response of our President, the U.S. Government, and our American society is a testament to this Republic and to our free and democratic system of government. It demonstrates that democracy will always triumph over terrorism. Through the ash-filled sky of New York City, Lady Liberty's torch pierces through as a reminder of American resolve.

I express my full support to the President, his national security team, our military, our intelligence officials as they develop a swift, precise and unequivocal response to the perpetrators of these heinous acts, as well as against those who made it possible by providing them with safe haven, training areas and funding.

We will prevail. God bless the United States of America.

#### AMERICA WILL SEEK JUSTICE

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, last night, in spite of the horror and terror of what happened yesterday, I went to bed