The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m. today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Goss) at 9 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m., thereby terminating the recess.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Due to the circumstances of today, the Chair calls the House to order at this time.

The prayer will be offered by the guest chaplain.

The Reverend Gerard Creeden, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, offered the following prayer:

God of peace and life, send Your spirit to heal our country; bring consolation to all injured in today’s tragedy in New York and Washington. Protect us and help our leaders to lead us out of this moment of crisis to a new day of peace. Amen.

The House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I.

Accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 o’clock and 3 minutes a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

O God, come to our assistance.
O Lord, may haste to help us.

Yesterday we were stunned, angry and violated. Today, Lord, we stand strong and together. Yesterday changed our world. Today we are changed.

We have humbly prayed to You, O Lord God of Heaven and Earth, yesterday and through the night. Now we turn to You for Your guidance and sense of eternal truths which built this Nation as we begin a new day of building security and peace through justice.

We mourn our dead and reach out with prayer and acts of compassion to all those families splattered with blood and exhausted by tears. Heal the wounded. Strengthen all civil servants, medical and religious leaders as they attempt to fill the gaping holes left in the fabric of our Nation.

Send forth Your Holy Spirit, Lord, upon all the Members of Congress, the President, and all government leaders across this Nation. Free them of fear, any prejudice whatsoever, remove all doubt and confusion from their minds. With clear insight which comes from You and You alone, reveal all that is unholy, and renew the desire of Your people to live in deepening faith, unbounding commitment, and lasting freedom where liberty has made her home.

We place our trust in You now and forever. Amen.

The Speaker will address the House for 1 minute.

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.