September 14, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

17109

wish to enter into the record a letter of condolence and support from the Nation of Ukraine through the Ambassador from Ukraine.

Dear Mr. President, through us, can understand the weight of public opinion and the weight of support that is on the side of justice as we move forward and try to eliminate and bring to justice those who would have caused such horror on our shores.

I had one senior citizen who wrote me: “Congresswoman KAPITUR, I am elderly, I am disabled. I am too weak, I cannot give blood. What can I do?” I wrote her back, “You certainly can put a little flag in your front window.” I am sure she does not have much money, but I suggested she might make a small donation to the scholarship fund that the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WELDON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) have put in the form of a bill for all the families in New York and Pennsylvania, other places in our country, and Virginia, that have been affected, for their children.

I was thinking, during World War II, we had a massive savings bond campaign. I think every American can buy a savings bond. Every American can strengthen our country even more in meeting what lies ahead. So I would urge the President, in the additional funds the Congress has appropriated, to consider expanding some of the savings bond operations across this country; to work with our banks, our private institutions, the Internet, and allow the American people, at whatever level of support they might be able to give, to strengthen our Nation as we seek to meet the enemy.

Let me also say that I would encourage many of our young people as they are considering their futures to think about enlistment in our Armed Forces, in our Reserves, in our guard forces across this country. Each of us in our own hearts, I know the Members of Congress, we know we are soldiers of freedom, too. We ask the American people to lend the kind of support that will need to carry out the activities of a free people under a representative government.

I ask people to consider joining our intelligence services.

And, finally, let me say to the American people and to our youth in particular, study in your classes the roots of rage and the roots of those who would seek to harm the harbingers of freedom not just here at home but abroad. Take the time to learn America, indeed, will surmount this latest crisis.

AMERICA’S RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the events of this past week have brought us to the nation together. And listening to my colleagues step forward and address the body today, I cannot help but reflect on the events of this past week, in so many ways surreal in terms of the stunning build-up to what unfolded on 9/11, which unfolded in a manner and catastrophic fashion in which they unfolded before us: the absolute horror, the unbelievable human sacrifice, the unbelievable human effort and heroism that took place. Even the elements themselves, happening during otherwise sunny and beautiful days, and then just proceeding to our Cathedral in a mist of rain to mourn and pray only entering out to the sunshine.

As a Nation, we mourn our innocent victims, our valiant heroes, our men and women who wear the uniform who have perished. It is a time of shared pain and prayer and a reaching out with acts of kindness that comfort and console. I come today in what binds us all in this country: our love of freedom, our love of this Nation, our deep and abiding love of one another.

This is also a time of grim resolve. Shortly, we will be voting on granting war powers and stand united behind President Bush and sound forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat.

There can be no quarter given to the cowards who perpetrate acts of evil against innocent people. For these cowards, the wrath of a just and free people will be severe. Our resolve is to ferret out the perpetrators, wherever they may be, and provide them no place to hide; with the further resolve that any Nation that seeks to harbor them, as the President has indicated earlier this week, we will make no distinction.

And while there must be no mistake about our resolve, let there also be no mistake about the manner in which we measure the actions we will take and direct our efforts at terrorists and not at the innocent.

God bless America.

IN FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have, as a Member of this body, not been one who frequently seeks the microphone or comes to this well of the House on any particular topics. Instead, I have attempted many times to offer measured comments here based upon what I feel strongly about.

Last Wednesday evening, at about 11:10 p.m., I came to the well of this House, like so many Members of this institution, to state my outrage over all Americans when I said we stood together in support of our commander in chief just as we did on behalf of those brave firemen, policemen and police women, and the citizenry of New York and Washington, DC, and our military forces as well.

I call attention to that simply to point out that in the strongest possible terms I condemned the unimaginable and unprecedented terrorist attacks that had taken place in New York City and Washington, DC on that morning.

In the wonderful epic that de Tocqueville wrote, simply entitled “America,” he asked what it was that had set the American people apart from the rest of the world. And I suggested, after having difficulty coming up with a term, it was simply a habit of the heart.

In what has represented the most serious act of aggression on American soil, a nameless and faceless enemy launched an assault on the very foundation of our society and, indeed, upon the manner in which we live. There is no body in America that is more representative than this institution of its people. It was my belief then and my belief now, as I had rallied to President Bush, Sr.’s support, President Clinton’s support in perilous moments, now the same thing to do to support President Bush, the Republican and Democratic leadership in this institution, as we sought and continue to seek to reassure the American people about events of the last few days and, indeed, just as importantly, over events of the next few weeks, months, and, I frankly believe, years.

These are moments when we come to the conclusion that old quotation that America offers unity without uniformity; free to be of different backgrounds and religions and persuasions and hold strong and differing political views. But on occasions like this we stand firm in our resolve to support our President and the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces as they prepare, with our support, a clear and decisive response against those who perpetrated these unspeakable acts.

These are the comments that I offered on Wednesday night, and there is nothing that has happened during these 48 hours that would cause me to change my mind or my resolve, like the resolve of the American people, as we have witnessed this horror, has only been stiffened. And I