On Tuesday you would have been hard pressed to find a school where someone was not praying.
On Monday people argued with their kids about picking up their room.
On Tuesday the same people could not get home fast enough to hug their kids.
On Monday people were upset that they had to wait 15 minutes in a fast food drive-through line.
On Tuesday people didn’t care about waiting up to 6 hours to give blood for the dying.
On Monday we waved our flags signifying our cultural diversity.
On Tuesday we waved only the American flag.
On Monday there were people trying to separate each other by race, sex, color and creed.
On Tuesday they were all holding hands.
On Monday we were men or women, black or white, old or young, rich or poor; gay or straight, Christian or non-Christian.
On Monday politicians argued about budget surpluses.
On Tuesday, grief stricken, they sang ‘God Bless America.’
On Monday the President was going to Florida to read to children.
On Tuesday he returned to Washington to protect our children.
On Monday we had families.
On Tuesday we had orphans.
On Monday people went to work as usual.
On Tuesday they died.
On Monday people were fighting the 10 Commandments on government property.
On Tuesday the same people all said ‘God help us all’ while thinking ‘Thou shalt not kill.’
It is sadly ironic how it takes horrific events to place things into perspective, but it has. The lessons learned this week, the things we have taken for granted, the things that have been forgotten or overlooked, hopefully will never be forgotten again.
These are messages from our community and our constituents. I am certain every Member in Congress probably has similar that they have received. The outpouring of support for our Commander in Chief, the President of the United States, has been wonderful.
In Palm Beach County, a county I come from, a typical blood bank volume is 500 pints a week. Last week when I visited Palm Beach County that same blood bank, and I will use the phrase used then by George Bush, the President, the President’s father, a thousand points of light. Well, last week in Palm Beach County there were 7,000 pints of life supporting New York and Washington.
I commend my community. I commend this Congress. I am proud to be an American. I thank all those who have witnessed and watched us work together on behalf of the American people.
Resolved, That I Mina‘Bente Sais Na Liheslaturas Na Šauu does hereby, on behalf of the People of Guam, condemn the hijacking of American commercial passenger airliners by terrorist forces and the attack and bombing of the New York City World Trade Center Twin Towers and the Pentagon as cowardly acts of war perpetrated upon the United States of America and its People; and be it further

Resolved, That I Mina‘Bente Sais Na Liheslaturas Na Šauu does hereby, on behalf of the People of Guam, wholeheartedly and resolutely support the promise and determination of President George W. Bush to “hunt down and bring to justice” those who plan and perpetrate such acts of war against any freedom loving people and nation, as well as those who aid and assist them; those who harbor or provide refuge to such perpetrators and mass murderers; and be it further

Resolved, That I Mina‘Bente Sais Na Liheslaturas Na Šauu does hereby, on behalf of the People of Guam, wholeheartedly support President George W. Bush’s stern intent and resolve to capture, arrest and prosecute all involved in this breach of peace and violation of human rights, and his declaration of and resolution that the search, capture and prosecution of these mass murderers is a top priority of the United States government and its law enforcement agencies; and be it further

Resolved, That I Mina‘Bente Sais Na Liheslaturas Na Šauu does hereby, on behalf of the People of Guam, extend to the Honorable George Pataki, Governor of New York; the Honorable Rudolph Giuliani, Mayor of New York City; the People of New York City, especially the families of those who were injured or who perished as a result of the cowardly attacks upon the World Trade Center Twin Towers; the People of Washington, D.C., especially the families of those who were injured or who perished as a result of the cowardly attacks upon the Pentagon; and the crash of the hijacked plane in Somerset County, Pennsylvania the sympathy, condolences and prayers of all the People of Guam; and be it further

Resolved, That the Speaker certify and Legislative Secretary attest to the adoption hereof of the same be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States of America; and President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable George Pataki, Governor of New York; to the Honorable Rudolph Giuliani, Mayor of New York City; to the Honorable Tom Ridge, Governor of Pennsylvania; to Mr. Jim Goodwin, President and Chief Executive Officer of United Airlines, Ltd.; to Mr. Donald J. Carty, President and Chief Executive Officer of American Airlines; to the Honorable Robert A. Underwood, Guam’s Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Carl T. Gutierrez, I Maga‘lahen Guahan (Governor of Guam).

But at the same time that we stand in solidarity with the rest of America, we may have the greatest economic challenge that it has faced since World War II when Guam was devastated as the only American territory occupied by an enemy during the entire 20th Century.

Guam’s economy is fueled primarily by tourism, most of it from Japan. Even prior to this attack, Guam was experiencing a 15 percent unemployment rate, because our economy is tied so much to Japan’s, which was three times the national average. Guam was experiencing a $40 million shortfall in revenues for the Government of Guam, roughly 10 percent of its entire budget, and for months my office, along with other political leaders on Guam and business leaders, have since tried to figure out various economic strategies of recovery.

But since the attack, the results have even been worse. The economic picture that we face is even worse. Because of international uncertainty and safety concerns, and perhaps a little bit of deference to a Nation in mourning, many international tourists have canceled their plans to come to Guam. This is devastating to my home island.

Continental Micronesia, which is the major airline of Guam, has laid off hundreds of workers. Hotels, restaurants and shops are empty; hundreds have been sent home or had their hours cut back dramatically. The ripple effect on ancillary economic activity and on Government of Guam revenues is immediate and dramatic. 25,000 Japanese tourists have canceled their plans to visit Guam this month, and it estimated that there will be a 25 to 30 percent decline in the coming months in the number of tourists from Japan.

The people of Guam are no strangers to tough economic times. Time and time again, the people of Guam have weathered the storm and persevered during economic hardship. Whether it was rebuilding the economy after a Supertyphoon, like Omar in 1992 and Paca in 1997, or an earthquake, like the 8.1 on the Richter scale we experienced in 1993, or following World War II, or the Gulf War, the people of Guam have always fought back, remained patient but determined, and eventually overcame the economic difficulty.

Recovery from the Asian financial crisis, the downsizing of the military following the Cold War, and now the recent terrorist attacks, presents an unprecedented challenge. In this hour of national crisis, Guam will do its part, as it has done in the past. We support the national effort and lend our assistance and support to all military activities in Guam.

Economic recovery is perhaps the best way to show that this Nation is back to normal. Economic assistance for communities and workers suffering from the decimation of entire industries is one of the best ways, although not the best way, to demonstrate that this Nation’s political leadership understands the meaning of the attack nearly 2 weeks ago.

In the coming days and weeks, I will vigorously pursue an economic stimulus plan for Guam and the Insular areas. There has been some progress on this, but much work needs to be done. I ask that the U.S. territories not be forgotten as we contemplate economic relief proposals for the entire Nation in the coming weeks and the coming months.

RECESS

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Pence). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule 1, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Miller of Florida) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God of time and eternity, our national story is rooted in faith in You. Motivated by religious sentiments, the chapters of our history turn on pages of prayerful trust during times of crisis.

Be with us at this present hour, during our evolving crisis.

We are on the way, O Lord. Our flag flies at half-mast as our planes once again reach for the sky and our ships cross the mighty shoulders of the seas.

From memorial services, America struggles from her knees and comes to full stature again, poised for the next move.

Be with us, Lord, in our next step.

The distant display of military on the horizon and the powerful workforce engaged by Monday’s routine are united here on the floor of Congress and motivate us to pray.

Be with all of us, Lord, about our daily tasks as Americans.

Ready to defend what we love, alert to alarms and setbacks, yet compassionate to all human limitation and suffering, we are on our way, Lord, to confront the evils of our time. With clear vision and good judgment, inspire in us only just desires.

Be with us, Lord, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the