

We have been forced to come to terms with the awful reality of faceless terrorism on our shores and in our streets. But we will survive. We will persevere. And we will emerge stronger than ever. ~~We are witness to the worst of times which have evoked the best in many individuals~~

We are here today, ~~rallying around Old Glory,~~ to affirm America's ^{unshakable} indomitable spirit.

It's a spirit that has been displayed in so many past heroic efforts and events in our history. It's a spirit that has seen us through the last nightmarish ^{days} week. It's a spirit that will sustain us in the difficult days ahead.

Tragically, many of those heroes lost their lives while trying to save the lives of others. May almighty God give them eternal peace and may He give their families the strength to carry on.

Our prayers and our hearts go out to all of the innocent victims, and to their families, whose lives have been shattered. They have been personally affected by this horrific catastrophe. But, in a very real sense, we all have been profoundly affected by this American tragedy.

Who among us has not wept.

We feel violated. Our sense of security has been shaken. We are angry. These emotions drive our determination for justice.

We stand squarely behind our President, our military and our government in the pursuit, capture and punishment of those responsible for this despicable act.

America is now forged with a common desire and goal to eradicate terrorism from the face of the earth, once and for all. That heroic effort can become ^{this} ~~our~~ generation's legacy.

America always has been a beacon of hope and freedom. Have no fear, liberty's light will continue to shine brightly, never to be extinguished by those who dwell in the shadows ^{of evil} ~~of~~ barbarous terrorism.

6 Spangled Banner."

As we gather here to honor the ideals of this great democracy, we also honor the courageous and selfless heroes from New York City, Washington, D.C. and around the nation who risked their lives in rescue and relief efforts.