

# New World Trade Center symbol of our resilience

## Opinion

It took too long and it cost too much. But on Monday, the unfinished One World Trade Center rose a little higher, surpassing the Empire State Building. Somehow, all of what America embodies was wrapped up in the recognition and celebration of that simple fact.

Some people have looked at this milestone and bemoaned the fact that America always seems to believe that bigger is better and that success is measured in inches and feet. And while the new tower, when completed next year, will rise 1,776 feet in the air — 408 feet taller than the original Twin Towers and the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere — that is the least of our reasons to celebrate.

One World Trade Center is a symbol that America may have been bloodied, but it's unbowed. We live in a nation that is indomitable and will rise like a phoenix from the ashes.

Back in the days and weeks following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, some argued that the towers should not be rebuilt, fearful a new skyscraper would once again become a target. Those voices did not hold sway for long. America does not live in fear. We get up. We build.

Symbols matter. And a more modest array of smaller buildings on the site would have said that America's time for dreaming big had passed.

It hasn't.

We do not reach for the sky out of arrogance, but out of a sense of noble aspiration, out of a recognition that America is possessed of a kind of strength where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Every steel girder put in place is mute testimony to that strength.