Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

The preamble of this resolution sets

out in detailed chronological order the

obligations that were imposed upon

and accepted by the regime of Saddam

Hussein as the result of a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in 1991. They

were clear obligations for Saddam Hussein to end his nuclear, biological, and

chemical weapons programs and the

means to deliver them and to end his

support for international terrorism. I

have heard no one deny the existence

of these obligations. I have heard no credible denial of their breach.

Since our country has been attacked

by terrorists and we continue to be

threatened, at least in part, due to the

breach of these obligations, it becomes

the duty of the President and this Congress to chart a course of action that

will protect our country and all its

citizens. This resolution in my opinion charts such a course.

It provides that the President is authorized to use the Armed Forces as he

deems necessary and appropriate to defend the national security of the

United States, and, secondly, to enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq.

In the final analysis, it boils down to

a matter of judgment, whether we

should vote ‘‘yes’’ or ‘‘no.’’ My judgment is unless I vote ‘‘yes,’’ I have

failed to meet the obligation that I

have to the more than 630,000 men,

women and children who constitute the

First Congressional District of Tennessee who are at risk today because of

the failures of Saddam Hussein.

Is there any question in anybody’s

mind what the votes of any of those

brave leaders who founded or helped

perpetuate our Nation would be? Leaders like President Washington, President Lincoln, President Truman, or

President Eisenhower, all who demonstrated during their time in office

the good judgment to chart and the

courage to complete a difficult course.

Can we not agree all of us in this

Chamber that mankind would have

been spared terrible agony and death if

the judgment of Winston Churchill had

been heard and heeded and adopted as a

course of action in the 1930’s?

The eyes of all our great leaders of

the past and the eyes of all who have

laid down their lives for our freedom

are upon us today to see if we are proper stewards of the freedom and the opportunities that they afforded us with

their sacrifices. This decision is vital,

not only to the future of Americans,

but to the future of the world community and to all who would throw off the

yoke of tyranny and oppression and escape the horrors of chemical, bacteriological, and nuclear warfare.

If we are forced to action following

this resolution, and it is everybody’s

hope that we will not be, it will be easier in proportion to our accord for those

who represent us on the battlefield.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage.