Mr. Speaker, I rise today in

support of this important resolution. Mr.

Speaker, I represent Fort Campbell, home of

the 101st Airborne. These brave men and

women may likely be among the first soldiers

called into duty in the event we go to war with

Iraq. The 101st was called into service during

Operation Desert Storm, and more recently

they continue to serve their country with pride

in Afghanistan.

Saddam Hussein is an evil man who cannot

be trusted. Almost everyone in this esteemed

body agrees with that statement. If we allow

Saddam to develop or obtain weapons of

mass destruction, how then will we be able to

stop him? As the President said on Monday

night, we don’t fully know what his weapons

capabilities are, and we need to have our inspectors

go to Iraq to find out. If Saddam continues

to defy the will of the United Nations

Security Council and of the global community,

we must act.

No one wants to go to war with Iraq. I would

prefer that the men and women at Fort Campbell,

who I represent, not be forced to leave

their families. However, I know that they are

ready for another ‘‘rendezvous with destiny’’

should they be called upon.

Four years ago, an overwhelming majority

of this House, including many of those who

now speak out against action in Iraq, voted to

make regime change in Iraq the official policy

of our government. What has changed since

then? Has Saddam allowed weapons inspectors

full unfettered access in Iraq? Has he destroyed

his weapons of mass destruction and

stopped programs to develop these weapons?

The answer is no.

Saddam has defied the U.N. Security Council

and the global community by ignoring

countless U.N. resolutions. Our Commander-in-

Chief has called upon this great body to

give him the authority to hold Saddam accountable.

We must Act.

After World War II, when what some have

deemed our ‘‘greatest generation’’ fought for

freedom in Europe and in the Pacific, we

promised ourselves ‘‘never again.’’ Never

again would we allow tyrannical dictators to

threaten the global peace and to use unjust

and immoral force against his own or other

people. Unfortunately, again may be happening.

I know that this generation will live up

to its calling, and someday, we may just be

calling those brave men and women our greatest

generation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support

this resolution. It is not only important for

our security, but for the security of the entire

free world.