Mr. Speaker, this is the

second time in my tenure in this body

that we are called upon to vote to commit

the sons and daughters in the uniform

of this country to war, to put

their lives on the line for this country

again, and this is indeed a profound

moment in the history of this Chamber.

We should ask ourselves carefully

why we do this. Do we do it just in

anger, just for revenge? No greater authority

than St. Thomas Aquinas

taught me as a young lad the meaning

and the understanding, the definition

of self-defense. Our greatest duty under

the Constitution is to protect and defend

the citizens of this country from

all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

It is for that reason we rise in support

of this resolution.

We have literally in this world allowed

terrorism to exist too long. We

have been on the defensive too long. We

have taken too many body blows. It is

time civilized man goes on the offensive.

Today, we go on the offensive. And

we commit our sons and daughters to

that enormous chore. This week, a reporter

caught a citizen in New York

taking dust off a car and putting it

into a jar and he asked, ‘‘Is that your

car?’’ The citizen said, ‘‘No. These are

my friends. We have lost our friends.’’

It is time to put an end to this madness.