Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday,

September 11, the United States

sustained, but heroically withstood, a

terrorist attack of unprecedented magnitude.

Make no mistake about it: this

was not only an attack committed

against this Nation as the leader of the

free world, but was also an assault

against all of humanity, against our

very civilization as we know it.

Today, the U.S. Congress will authorize

the use of force to repel this attack

on the people of the United States. As

we take this step, we should be conscious

of the magnitude of the undertaking.

This is not a resolution expressing

our outrage. It is nothing less

than a declaration of war. Success will

be measured by eradicating the individuals

and the networks of those responsible

for this act of war.

Given the tactics that we know of

terrorists, this task will be arduous

and difficult, but we can and we must

be victorious. To all those who cherish

freedom and democracy around the

world, let there be no doubt: your way

of life, your aspirations for the future,

the security of your family, have also

been attacked. The devastation in New

York, Pennsylvania, and Washington is

not limited to the United States. It

stretches to your countries, to your

streets, indeed to your homes.

You too must stand and be counted in the

fight against the perpetrators of this crime as

well as threats from other terrorist acts. After

this authorization, Congress and the President

will need to re-visit the threat of terrorism. We

will have to develop a new comprehensive

strategy to combat terrorism at home and

around the world. In that endeavor, we will

prevail. Today’s legislation marks the beginning

of that effort.

Mr. Speaker, in this effort, we will

prevail, and today’s legislation marks

the beginning of that effort.