Mr. Speaker, at 10 a.m.

on September 11, I stood on the east

lawn of the Capitol, smoke billowing

from the Pentagon behind the Capitol

dome, F–16s coursing through the air.

The Earth beneath my feet shook with

a secondary explosion at the Pentagon.

I was filled, Mr. Speaker, with a deep

and resolute anger that this would not

stand; that America would respond.

That is altogether fitting. The butchers

who carried out these attacks see

themselves as warriors, and it would be

wrong of us to deal with them otherwise.

What they are about to learn is that

America’s fighting men are the most

powerful warriors in the history of the

world. Tonight I will solemnly and

with deep humility vote to give our

President the power to use all necessary

and appropriate force to vanquish

the enemies of our peace. May

God have mercy on their souls, because

the United States of America will not.