Mr. Speaker, I rise in

support of this resolution. In the immediate

future our task is clear: we

must wipe out terrorism and all those

who support it. Under the U.S. Constitution,

this body’s overriding responsibility

is to protect the security

of American citizens. We must go to

whatever lengths are necessary to hunt

down and destroy those responsible for

these attacks.

However, achieving this immediate

goal is only half the battle. We must

begin with the long view in mind. We

must also think now about how to

shape the world so that another terrorist

network will not rise up to replace

the one we will destroy. We must

create the conditions for hope and opportunity

in the countries that are now

fertile grounds for the development of

future terrorists.

We must develop a vision for American

involvement in the 21st century,

‘‘for without a vision, the people will

perish.’’ As President Reagan said,

If we are to thrive through this century,

we must lead. For to whom much

is given, much is required.

This week’s attacks were an act of war

against the United States. When we determine

who is responsible our reaction must be

strong, decisive, and sustained enough to

stamp out this threat against our nation. This

resolution gives the President the authority he

needs to conduct any operation that would

punish the group responsible for these attacks

and any government who harbors these terrorists.

Many people have discussed the symbolism

of these attacks. The only enduring meaning

of these attacks—planes crashing into buildings—

is barbarism, cruelty and hate.

In the immediate future our task is clear. We

must wipe out terrorism and all those who

support it. Under the U.S. Constitution this

body’s overriding responsibility is to protect

the security of American citizens. We must go

to whatever length is necessary to hunt down

and destroy those responsible for these attacks.

However, achieving this immediate goal is

only half the battle. We must begin with the

long view in mind. We must also think now

about how to shape the world so that another

terrorist network will not rise up to replace the

one we will destroy. We must create the conditions

for hope and opportunity in the countries

that are now fertile ground for the development

of future terrorists.

We must develop a vision for American involvement

in the 21st century, for ‘‘without a

vision the people perish.’’ Without question or

wealth and power make us the leader of the

free world, but we must also lead the free

world.

As President Reagan said,

If we are to thrive through this century we

must lead, ‘‘for to whom much is given much

is required.’’

What this means for the coming battle is

that we must target terrorists and the state structures

that support them, not the citizens

of nations who, in many cases, are already

suffering under repressive regimes.

Our greatest asset in this immediate battle

against terrorism and the long-term fight to

shape a world that is safe for democracy is

the strength of our character. The rescue

workers in New York and Washington have

shown the world what we are made of. Their

heroism has reminded me of the words on the

Iwo Jima Memorial, ‘‘Uncommon valor was a

common virtue.’’

The depth of evil expressed in Tuesday attacks

was extraordinary, but the love Americans

have for freedom and for one another is

greater still, and we must spread it. Terrorists

may attack our structures but they will never

dent our soul.