Mr. Speaker, I too rise in

support of this resolution. But of all

the important votes I have had to cast,

this one scares me the most because we

do not ultimately know the true magnitude

of this challenge or its true

cost.

This is the beginning of a prolonged

and lengthy fight against terrorism. I

am confident that we will win most of

these battles, but we should anticipate

losing some as well, as we did last

Tuesday. This resolution is not about

retaliation or revenge, this is a matter

of self-defense.

Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, our ship

of state was hit. And while we will not

sink, we were bloodied on our own soil.

Now it is time for all hands to be on

deck, not just here in the United

States but amongst all the civilized nations

in the world as we band together

to defend ourselves against international

terrorism.

Our President has requested this authority,

and he will get it. And may

God bless those men and women in uniform

who will be asked to carry out

this task.