Mr.

Speaker, I thank my good friend for

yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, the lethal threat to

Americans will not go away by wishing

it away. The faceless cowards who murdered

thousands of innocent men,

women, and children this week and the

hate-filled extremists, who today are

scheming future acts of terrorism,

must be rooted out.

Mr. Speaker, even before Tuesday’s

atrocities, deaths from worldwide acts

of terror were on the rise. But nothing

could have prepared Americans, and

the world, for the cruel and barbaric

slaughter of so many innocent people.

In 1999, 233 people were murdered by

terrorists. In 2000, the number jumped

to 405. In 2000, roughly half of all the

terrorist incidents in the world were

directed against Americans and U.S.

assets. Each day, 10 to 12 threats are

aimed at U.S. posts overseas. However,

most of those are on foreign soil, so we

were lulled into a false sense of security.

Mr. Speaker, people should know

that whatever intelligence gathering

lapses may have occurred, Congress did

step up to the plate time and again

through successive administrations.

We did it after Beirut. We did it

through the succeeding years. We did it

after the bombing of our embassies in

Africa.

Today, it is all too clear that our initiatives

have fallen short. And now,

Mr. Speaker, the task of mitigating

and ultimately ending the terrorist

threat requires the strongest medicine

of all. It is time to take the gloves off.

This resolution urges the President to

use all necessary and appropriate force

against those who were in any way responsible

for or who aided the terrorists

and to prevent further acts of terrorism

against the United States.

The resolution is not a blank check.

We do this with our eyes open and in

fervent prayer, especially the prayer

that President Bush and his national

security team will be lavished with

wisdom from God above to use only

that force which is truly necessary and

only that force which is truly appropriate.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we need to

take heed from the ageless wisdom in

Psalm 37, where David writes:

This is not just our fight. It is the Lord’s fight

as well.