Mr.

Speaker, this evening I stand in the

strongest position of support for the

resolution that is in front of us and

that has been carefully negotiated and

in coming days, weeks, and months

will play out, and also to offer unqualified

support tonight for President Bush

in the difficult days, weeks, and

months ahead that surely will confront

this Nation.

It is to be a difficult time. But as we

witness the bravery and the heroism of

those men and women of New York

City and those families who have lost

loved ones as well at the Pentagon, we

know the resolve of the American people.

I supported the Iraqi incursion a

decade ago in one of the most difficult

votes in this House. Tonight, this vote

is not easy either, knowing as well that

when the days grow very difficult, it

will require the strength of all the

American people. But tonight let us resolve

to proceed with vigor, not vengeance,

in remembrance of those who

have been lost over the last 3 tragic

days.

The same comments I offered on

Wednesday night I offer tonight:

strength to the American people and

wisdom to President Bush and this

Congress.