Mr.

Speaker, today is a day I hoped I would

never have to face, a day on which I

would need to support the use of force.

I am sure that all of my colleagues

agree that when we took the oath of office

to honor and defend our country,

we hoped and prayed we, as Members of

Congress, would not have to use force

to defend this Nation.

On Tuesday morning, however, we all

knew that the only response that

would be understood by the evil force

that undertook these treacherous actions

would be the powerful response of

the greatest military force in the

world, the United States military.

However, our resolve must be based

on the rule of law and reflect the lessons

learned from history. The use of

force is not something that we as

Americans take lightly. America is a

peace-loving Nation. Our involvement

in World War II is the strongest example

of America’s peace-loving ways. We

waged war on ruthless Naziism that

threatened the very concept of humanity

and the lives of entire races of people.

Today we face another global threat,

terrorism, which once again threatens

the foundation of all peace-loving nations.

Today the world looks to America

and this very body for the very

clear and unmistakable message that

we as a Nation will not tolerate people

and organizations to operate in opposition

to the very foundation that every

society is based upon: the sanctity of

human life.

I pray for our President.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we shall overcome

someday.