Mr. Speaker, I have prepared

remarks, but I would just like to

speak from my heart that when you go

to the Pentagon and when you go to

see ground zero in New York, you see

an incredible contrast, the carnage of

the buildings and the hope and vitality

of the people.

When President Bush was there

today and he stood up to speak to some

of the rescue workers, some of them

could not hear, and they yelled out,

‘‘We can’t hear you.’’ And he turned

around to them and said, ‘‘But we can

hear you. The whole world can hear

you. And soon, those who committed

this dastardly, cowardly act, will hear

from us.’’

I am voting for this resolution so

that they will hear from us. If I have

one regret, it is that we did not give a

President, our President, this power a

few years ago to respond to terrorism

when it first struck.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people I represent,

I rise in strong support of authorizing

the use of our Armed Forces against those responsible

for the carnage in New York, Pennsylvania,

and Washington.

Acts of war have been committed against

innocent men, women, and children going

about the daily business and routines that are

American life. After a decade of peace, we are

reminded in the harshest way that the United

States has violent and cowardly enemies—

that while the cold war is over, the world is a

more dangerous place.

A decade ago, Congress considered a resolution

authorizing another President George

Bush to use all means necessary to liberate

Kuwait, a resolution I strongly supported. To

this day, I consider the vote on that measure

to have been the most important vote I cast

during my service in the House.

Today, we face a far more daunting task.

This time, our enemy is faceless. It hides in

the shadows. Its mission is morally and spiritually

bankrupt. It’s united only in its hatred for

our democratic ideals and peaceful way of life.

The path that lies ahead is a dangerous

one. Defeating this enemy won’t be easy, and

it won’t come quickly. Yet I am confident that

authorizing force will save lives by preventing

future acts of terrorism, and so I cast my vote

without reservation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a defining moment for

our nation. After consoling the families who

have lost loved ones and after healing the

wounded, our duty as a free people is to support,

with all the resources available to us, the

many men and women waging the war against

terrorism.

I pray for the wisdom of our leaders, the

courage of our Armed Forces, and that we will

prevail over the evil that attacked us this

week.