Mr.

Speaker, tonight I will vote to support

our efforts to stop terrorism.

This is going to be a difficult vote for

me. Since early in 1970, when I stepped

off an airplane in Vietnam and joined

my infantry unit, it has been my

dream and it has been my prayer that

no American would ever again have to

shed their blood nor give their life on

foreign soil. As a Member of Congress,

I never dreamed of voting to send our

American men and women into combat,

but then I never dreamed I would

be calling the mother and the father of

a young man from Eureka, California,

in my district, who was on board one of

those hijacked airplanes on September

11.

This past Tuesday, terrorists attacked

America and they attacked the

American people. They murdered thousands

of Americans, and we must ensure

that we do all in our power to end

terrorism and to stop the terrorists

from striking again. Our country is

great because the people of our country

are great, and we will, we will, with resolve,

stand together to protect our

freedom.