Mr. Speaker, I rise in

strong support of this resolution.

America stands at a threshold. Behind

us lies our sense of security, now

shattered by intentional and brutal

acts of war. Before us lies our solemn

obligation. Our steps over this threshold

must be deliberate, they must be

firm, and they must be brave.

Today, Congress invokes our authority,

derived from our Constitution and

the War Powers Resolution, to authorize

the use of force against enemies of

the United States. Our object is not to

extract vengeance; mere retribution

will not make Americans safe, nor will

it purge terrorism from this world.

The battles ahead will be against an

enemy who knows no boundaries and

has no shame, an enemy with no flag

and no official military, who lurks in

the shadows of the world, cloaked in

malevolent ideology and attacks us indiscriminately.

These will be battles

unlike any we have ever known and we

must stand united with our President,

our allies, and each other as we navigate

the coming storm. The coming

days and weeks will give us a clear picture

of who stands on the side of justice

and freedom and who does not.

Those who stand against us, actively,

by organizing, financing, or executing

terrorism, or passively, by sheltering

terrorists and their allies, or implicitly,

by teaching hatred to children or

justifying violence against innocents,

will know the full fury of a just and

gentle America aroused. We will not

rest until the world is free at last from

the grave threat that struck so hard at

our Nation’s heart.

Since the end of the Cold War, this

Nation has taken much for granted:

our freedom, our liberty, our safety.

These days are over, I say to my colleagues.

Today, at this moment, a new

generation is being called upon to defend

our way of life and protect our

citizens. A new war is upon our shores.

Its first innocent casualties have already

fallen. Let us meet this test with

all the unity and will we can muster,

and may God bless America.