Mr. Speaker,

as a new Member of Congress, I

hardly expected to have to take this

extraordinary step, but I do it with the

grave seriousness with which it is intended.

Last May I stood on this floor and I

welcomed my first new grandchild, and

I said at that time that for many of us

the issues that we deal with today, we

need to think about how they affect

our children and our grandchildren. I

would submit to my colleagues today

that that is what I am thinking about,

because what we are doing today is securing

for them our American way of

life.

Our American way of life reflects

that fragile balance between our individual

freedom and the security of our

Nation, because that is the cornerstone

of our democracy and to which our

children are born. And to our foes: You

have underestimated our will to assure

that that justice and that freedom

flourishes throughout our land.