Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong

support of our Commander-in-Chief, our

Armed Forces, and the important action this

body takes today. This resolution means

America will go into our war on terrorism with

a solid front.

We’re not retaliating because we’re angry,

although we are. We’re not doing this out of

revenge, although it is. This is not simply

about justice, although we are entitled to justice.

Rather, we are retaliating to save our

freedom and way of life. These who were violently

attacked on September 22th would be

attacked again, maybe with nuclear, biological,

or chemical weapons next time, if we were to

allow the perpetrators to go unpunished, or

even lightly punished. But we won’t. America

is a peaceful nation, but when our freedom

and security are challenged as they are now,

we will do whatever it takes to protect our way

of life.

I do not take this decision lightly. This war

is going to be an extensive and costly one.

This vote will result in the likely loss of life for

a good number of American servicemen, and

the certain upheaval of many American families.

Our enemies don’t think America has the

stomach for an ugly sustained fight like this

one. Our enemies are wrong.

Ten years ago, I was on the receiving end

of a resolution like this one, just another

young Air Force officer, waiting for the word.

I know it was an agonizing decision for many

members of this body, but it was the right one

for America and for the world. I believe this

one is, too. We need to remember this when

the going gets tough. Right is right, and must

be defended.

It says in the seventh Psalm that, ‘‘He who

digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit

he has made. The trouble he causes recoils

on himself; his violence comes down on his

own head.’’ In the near future, the violence of

America’s enemies will come down on their

own heads. We will find these barbarians, we

will hunt down those who harbor them, and we

will make an example of them. We did not

start this. But we will finish it.

God bless the victims and their families,

God bless our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen,

and marines. And God bless America.