Mr. Speaker, I have heard this

plea from my constituents in the fourth congressional

district in these numbing days following

the unconscionable terrorist attack on

the World Trade Center and Pentagon: Find

those who did this. Make them answer for

their evil. Defend the ideals that our predecessors

fought for, to make this a safer and

more peaceful world for the generations to

come.

I was in this House a decade ago when we

debated a resolution to support our President,

George Bush, when he went to war against

Saddam Hussein. I hoped never to have to

speak to a military challenge of that magnitude

again. But on September 11, America was attacked

at home by an enemy that hides in

shadows and kills without conscience.

By authorizing the use of all necessary and

appropriate force against those responsible for

terrorist attacks, this Congress shows that it

and the American people stands behind our

President, George W. Bush, and civilized society.

While it is not a technical declaration of

war, for all practical purposes the United

States is at war with those who want to harm

our people, disrupt our economy, shatter our

security, and destroy our democratic values.

All nations in the world who profess the values

of civilization should be with America on this

defining mission.

We will win before the causes of liberty and

justice are more powerful than the forces of

evil and hatred. Americans have answered

this call before. This time, the enemy is not so

much a single country as a destructive concept

called terrorism. But we will prevail because

this new challenge has once again

shown that we are the United States. We

know what we are fighting for: the triumph of

liberty, freedom, and peace over fanaticism

and violence. Our response is just, and our

cause will prevail.