Mr. Speaker,

I come to the floor today to address the necessity,

imposed on us by unspeakable acts of

terrorism, for the United States to respond to

the killing and injuring of thousands of our fellow

citizens, almost all innocent civilians.

This Nation has the right and obligation to

both respond to and defend itself from the violent

enemies of our freedom and liberty.

Those persons and/or entities that were either

directly involved in or provided any assistance

to the acts of September 11 pose a clear and

present danger to the lives of our people and

to our very national security. We will find those

responsible and make certain that they, and

anyone who helped them, are fully punished.

This attack on America and its people will not

stand.

Moreover, as we cannot rule out future attacks

on U.S. soil or to American interests

overseas, we must take a comprehensive approach

to this challenge. Appropriately, we will

utilize the first rate capabilities of our Armed

Forces to ensure the personal security of each

and every one of us, at home and abroad. To

that end, we commit ourselves by the resolution

before us, to root out terrorism wherever

it is found around the world.

It will not be an easy task to defeat terrorism.

It will require considerable resources

and patience. There is no quick solution. I am

confident, however, that the President and the

Congress, working together, will find the

means and methods to prevail.

As a member of the Armed Service Committee,

I along with my committee colleagues

will perform our duty in providing U.S. Armed

Forces the necessary resources to deter and

defeat the threat of terrorism. I know that our

colleagues will support our work.

There is yet considerable work to be done

in the days and months ahead. I am confident

that our Nation, and our Armed Forces called

upon to defend all Americans, will meet the

challenges that lie ahead—just as we have

from Concord and Lexington through the war

in the Persian Gulf.

I strongly urge passage of the resolution.