Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong

support of House Joint Resolution 64, which

will authorize the use of force in responding to

the terrorist threat that violated the shores of

the United States on September 11, 2001. I

do not take this action lightly. I fully recognize

that this single resolution, though brief in text,

will have far-reaching consequences. But, I

am certain that this is the only right course of

action for our institution and our nation.

The violence that left so many innocent

Americans dead or injured or grieving for the

loss of a beloved family member or friend was

no less than an act of war. Those who preach

fear and hatred declared war upon our nation

and our people. Indeed, they declared war on

all civilized nations and freedom-loving peoples.

We must respond in like kind.

In fact, it is our duty to respond with all the

power of our principles and all the might of our

great and prosperous United States. God has

given us a noble land, as Senator Albert

Beveridge once said, ‘‘a land that can feed

and clothe the world; . . . a land set like a

sentinel between the two imperial oceans of

the globe.’’ We must use the gifts that have

been showered upon America from the heavens

to save the world from tyranny once

again.

Just as we did in World War II when we defeated

a tyranny of bigotry and hatred, we

must engage in an all-out assault against this

new tyranny of fear and terror. We are unified

in spirit and in purpose and, we are joined by

nations far and near. In the end, we will prevail,

providing the world with a new day of

freedom and peace.

While I am certain that our road will end in

victory, I know that it will likely be a long and

arduous road to travel. It will not be neat. It

will not be without bloodshed or loss of life. It

will not be brief. But it will be right and it will

be just.

It is not easy to stand before my colleagues

and my country knowing that our actions will

send young men and women into battle for the

cause of freedom. But, we can look their

mothers and fathers in the eye and say to

them now that this is what must be done. I

have little doubt that they understand and that

they take comfort in knowing that their children

are heroes in a new greatest generation.

And, I feel confident that the American people

will stand with those heroes day in and

day out until our enemies have been vanquished.

I am overwhelmed with an enormous

sense of pride and patriotism at the selflessness

that so many Americans have shown in

recent days in supporting the brave public

safety workers and in consoling the bereaved.

That indefatigable spirit will sustain us in any

battle against any evil.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues

to remember the words of our President

Dwight D. Eisenhower in his Second Inaugural

Address to the nation as we to pass this important

resolution:

May God bless this mighty nation and shed

his grace and blessings upon the men and

women of America’s armed forces.