Mr. Speaker, this week

my emotions have run the gamut. On the one

hand I have seen my son take a step closer

to becoming the youngest mayor in the history

of Detroit. Yet, my joy has been destroyed by

the hands that inflicted the worst attack

against the United States since Pearl Harbor.

I share the pain of Tuesday’s attack with millions

of Americans who have witnessed the

subsequent carnage. My emotions cry out for

retribution; yet my head tells me that while we

must be resolute, we must also be deliberate

and circumspect.

For now, as a nation, we stand at the edge

of the abyss. We are poised to make the leap

that our nation has rarely been called on to

make; yet when called to do so, we have

leaped with everything that we have. We are

poised today to leap into the abyss of war and

we cannot do so timidly. Our determination to

triumph over terrorism must be resolute and

undeterred. It is with a heavy heart that I

stand before the American people prepared to

tip my hand in favor of using military force.

War intrinsically means the loss of lives. And

I know that, in addition to the blood that has

already been shed, our actions today will

sanction further bloodshed of our sons and

daughters. However, there are times when circumstance

leaves us no choice. Tuesday’s attack

has left no doubt that our enemies seek

to bring America under siege. We have no

choice but to protect ourselves, and I have no

choice but to support this joint resolution authorizing

the President to respond militarily

against our enemies.