Mr. Speaker, this great

and powerful Nation of ours is about to

respond. We will respond mightily. We

will respond, not just against the terrorists

themselves, but against those

who harbor and protect them.

The Taliban of Afghanistan is at the

very top of the list. As we prepare to

deal with them, we have to remember

the civilians of that country. We must

be careful to minimize the impact on

the innocent people of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I am a veteran. I know

that sometimes innocent people die in

war, but in the case of Afghanistan,

perhaps more than any other, we will

be at war with the terrorist organizations

and with the government that

aids and abets them, not with the people.

The people of Afghanistan are victims

too. They have been brutalized by

the Taliban, by the communists who

were there before them. They have not

known peace for decades. Millions have

starved and become refugees. We will

need to help those surrounding countries

that will be impacted by the refugees.

We need to communicate to the

people of Afghanistan, reach out to

them and let them know that we are

their friends, and that once Osama bin

Laden and the Taliban are gone, and

they will be gone, we want to be a

friend and ally to the people of Afghanistan.