Mr. President, we are

now learning that the terrorists who

attacked our Nation this week may

have been planning their hideous

crimes for years.

In their evil and painstaking calculations,

the terrorists clearly tried to anticipate

every possible obstacle they

might encounter.

But there is one obstacle they overlooked;

that is, the courage of the

American people, and our fierce determination

to defend the people and values

we cherish.

It was that courage and determination

that appears to have given the

passengers aboard the plane that

crashed near Pittsburgh the strength

to resist their murderers and prevent

an even greater tragedy.

It is that same courage and determination

that is at the heart of this

resolution we pass today.

Tuesday, from the window of my office

in the Capitol, I watched thick

black smoke rise from the Pentagon

and fill the sky over Arlington Cemetery.

The graves in that hallowed ground

remind us that Americans have faced

great evil before and defeated it.

By passing this resolution, we are

saying we are prepared to confront evil

again and to defeat it again.

We are saying that the Congress of

the United States—Democrats and Republicans

stand with the President as

our Commander in Chief.

We are authorizing the President to

use force against the terrorists who attacked

America on September 11, and

any nation, organization, or person

that aids or harbors them.

As a result of our actions today, we

know that our men and women in uniform

may be forced to confront a new

kind of enemy—an enemy whose actions

are constrained neither by conscience,

nor the rules of war.

We also know that whatever they are

called to do, they will do it well and

with honor. And we know this: They

will prevail.

This is the gravest responsibility we

can undertake as elected leaders.

That is why our Constitution calls on

the President and the Congress to act

together on decisions to employ our

armed forces to defend our Nation.

By passing this resolution, we reaffirm

our belief in our Constitution as

the foundation and strength of our democracy.

By providing specific statutory authorization

and by requiring continuing

consultation between the

President and the Congress, we also underscore

the importance of the War

Powers Resolution. Only by standing

together, can we stand strong and defeat

this threat.

As I have said before, what happened

on Tuesday was not simply an attack

against America. It was a crime

against democracy, and decency. It was

a crime against civilization itself.

Americans have been deeply touched

this week by the support we have received

from friends throughout the

world. From the gates of Buckingham

Palace, to the halls of the United Nations

and NATO, to the streets of Moscow

and beyond, the grief displayed by

our friends has helped to make our own

grief more bearable.

We thank the family of nations for

standing with us in these early days of

this battle against terrorism. Even

more, we thank them for their commitment

to stand with us in the days

ahead.

I am confident we will continue to

stand together, and defeat this most

insidious of threats, wherever and

whenever it arises.

We will be fierce in the defense of our

ideals. We will make whatever material

or physical sacrifice that is required

of us to punish those who attacked

our nation, and to prevent future

attacks.

But we will not sacrifice the ideals

that built this nation and have sustained

us for more than two centuries.

Just as we are united against the terrorists

and their co-conspirators who

carried out the attacks on our nation,

we must also be united against acts of

hate against innocent Arab-Americans

and Muslims.

The madmen who carried out these

crimes despise our values of liberty and

justice for all.

By maintaining our commitment to

those ideals now, we send a powerful

message to those who committed this

evil that they have not won, and they

will not win this war. They have broken

our hearts, but not our will.

The terrorists hoped to bring us to

our knees. Let us defy them by standing

together on our feet as one nation,

indivisible.

Yes, we saw evil this week. But we

have also seen great strength. We have

seen it in the heroic men and women

working day and night in the wreckage

of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

We have seen it in the countless

Americans in cities across the country

who waited hours to donate blood.

And we have seen it in the men and

women who may have prevented even

greater destruction through their bravery

aboard that doomed flight.

That is the strength of America—the

one obstacle the terrorists did not anticipate,

and the one that will be their

undoing.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence

of a quorum.