I thank my friend for

yielding and for his leadership on this

issue.

Madam Speaker, it’s a sad irony that

at the same time that we’re committing

our sons and daughters to an

armed conflict in Libya in support of

democracy and the rule of law, that we

are also trampling on the fundamental

principles of separation of powers and

the plain language of our United States

Constitution, which is the supreme

rule of law here at home.

The United States Constitution

clearly states that the President’s

power as Commander in Chief—to introduce

our Armed Forces into hostilities—

may be exercised only pursuant

to three circumstances: number

one, a declaration of war; number two,

a specific statutory authorization; and,

number three, a national emergency

created by an attack upon the United

States. That has not happened.

So despite my great respect and affection

for our President, a lawful

premise for this Libyan operation does

not exist.

In closing, I’d just like to say that

I’ve been to Iraq 13 times and Afghanistan

10 times. I don’t meet any of our

kids on their first tour of duty anymore.

They’re all on their third tour of

duty or fourth tour of duty.

We are stretched thin, and this was a

gratuitous action. We should not be

there. There’s no lawful basis for the

prosecution of this war. So I ask for

the support of this resolution.