I thank the gentleman

for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be

one of the original cosponsors of this

resolution. But I want to be honest, I

take no pleasure in this. I’m an early

and ardent supporter of the President

on most everything. This has nothing

to do, in my mind, with the President

or, truthfully, even with the action in

Libya. For me, this is about the Constitution,

plain and simple.

The Constitution is clear. It’s not

even about the War Powers Act. I personally

think the War Powers Act is

probably unconstitutional. The Constitution

is clear. On many things it’s

not. It is unequivocally clear that the

declaration of war is the responsibility

of Congress, period. No gray area there.

Now, I know you can try to fudge on

what the definition of war is, but when

someone is shooting at someone else,

that’s war. If it’s one person, 10 people,

or 10 million, that’s war. For me, that’s

what this is about.

Now, don’t get me wrong. I would

hesitate strongly—I doubt that I would

support the action in Libya. But that’s

not why I cosponsored this.

And I’ve had some people say, well, 15

days is unreasonable. Well, okay. Then

if this passes, they have 15 days to

come back to us and ask us for more

time, which I would be inclined to do if

that’s necessary on a military basis.

What this simply says is that Congress

has to stand up on our own two

feet and take the actions that we took

an oath to take, which is to uphold the

Constitution.

Now, I understand

that people may see things differently

and I respect people that would differ,

but I cannot believe that anyone can

honestly read the Constitution on this

matter in an unclear way.

Congress has the authority to declare

war, period. That’s why I’m here today.

I’m not here to debate today whether

we are right or wrong to be in Libya.

That will come another day—maybe or

maybe not. But I am here to say, uncomfortable

as it is, unpleasant as it is,

as difficult as it is, it is our responsibility

to take action when it comes to

declaring war. Every Member of Congress

should be voting for this resolution

because of that simple fact, and

we can have other debates on another

day.