Mr. Speaker, I rise in

support of Mr. ROONEY’s resolution.

Mr. 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 here at home trampling on the

fundamental principles of separation of

powers and the plain language of the

United States Constitution, which is

the supreme rule of law in our land.

I’ve heard several times now an argument

that is about politics. Well, in

fairness, politics is to Congress like

wet is to water. We cannot avoid that.

But this issue is really one of substance,

and the United States Constitution

clearly states that the President’s

power as Commander in Chief to introduce

Armed Forces into hostilities may

be exercised only pursuant to three circumstances:

first, a declaration of war;

secondly, a specific statutory authorization;

and, number three, a national

emergency created by an attack on the

United States or its territories. And

none of those circumstances is in evidence

here today.

So despite my great admiration and

respect for our President, a lawful

premise for this Libyan operation does

not exist.

I’ve also heard the argument that we

have to join with our international

neighbors, that we can’t desert them.

Well, as a matter of fact, I’ve been to

Iraq now 14 times. I’ve been to Afghanistan

10 times. When we first went into

Afghanistan, when I first went over

there after hostilities started, it used

to be 50 percent United States and 50

percent the rest of the world. Now

when I go, it’s about 75 percent the

U.S. and 25 percent the rest of the

world. So they have migrated out of

Afghanistan. At the same time, they’re

asking us to pick up the load in Libya.

Also on my trips, I don’t meet any of

our kids on their first tour of duty anymore.

When I meet our kids, they’re on

their third, fourth, fifth tour of duty.

We’re stretched very thin. Our military

families are stretched very thin. I

think we should allow our international

neighbors to pick up this load.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of

the aisle to support the Rooney amendment.