Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution.

This week our Nation lost its innocence

but found a new sense of unity

and purpose. We now face a severe test,

one demanding severe measures. The

resolution before us empowers the

President to bring to bear the full force

of American power abroad in our struggle

against the scourge of international

terrorism. It will enable him, in the

words of our Secretary of State, to

eradicate terrorism, ‘‘root and

branch.’’

The President currently has many

powers to deter and prevent international

terrorism, including diplomatic

pressure, economic measures,

military action to stop imminent

threats to the people of the United

States. Our resolution arms the President

with the certain knowledge that

he has the full support of the united

Congress and the American people in

exercising these powers.

In considering this resolution, Mr.

Speaker, the historic nature of this occasion

cannot be overstated. Precious

few times in our 225 years as a Nation

have we been faced with such a grave

and momentous decision. One need

only look at the devastation, the broken

bodies, the flood of tears left in the

wake of Tuesday’s monstrous terrorist

attacks to grasp the awesome responsibility

before us.

Mr. Speaker, the world is watching

these deliberations and is asking: Is

the United States up to the challenge?

Are we, as a Nation, blessed for so

much of our history with peace and

prosperity, capable of mounting a costly

and concerted campaign against

international terror? Let us today answer

those doubts with a resounding affirmation.

In committing to this fight, let us

not delude ourselves. We are embarking

on a long and difficult struggle,

like none other in our Nation’s history.

It will demand resolve. It will demand

patience. It will demand sacrifice. It

will also demand that we draw upon

the strength of each and every American.

I am deeply concerned, Mr. Speaker,

by reports of violence directed at Arab-

Americans and Muslim-Americans,

some in my own district. This is not a

clash of civilizations or a war between

the Western and the Islamic world, as

some would have it. It is a struggle for

the survival of civilization itself

against barbarism.

In this struggle, Mr. Speaker, we are

not alone. All Americans deeply appreciate

the many expressions of sympathy

and support from our friends and

allies across the globe. We trust that

these words will be followed by actions—

actions that may prove painful,

costly and dangerous. But in the fight

against international terrorism, there

can be no neutrals. Those who are not

with us are against us.

Today’s debate is a sign of the unity

and vitality of our democracy. All

among us are united in our outrage by

the tragic events of this week. All

among us are united in our commitment

to defeat international terrorism.

On this we stand undivided and indivisible.

If we are to defeat international

terrorism, as we must, we must provide

our commander in chief with the power

this resolution entails.

In granting the President this power,

Congress is not abdicating its prerogatives.

We do not weaken our role by approving

this measure. By signaling our

solidarity with the President and by

trusting him with this power, we take

our place at his side as full partners in

this fight.

The President has a solemn responsibility

to use this power wisely and to

consult with and report to the Congress

throughout the long struggle

ahead. We in Congress also have an ongoing

responsibility: to contribute to

these efforts, monitoring the crisis, investigating

its causes, gathering expert

insights, and doing all in our power to

ensure that these terrible events are

never repeated.

Mr. Speaker, I am an American not

by birth but by choice. Following the

Second World War, I fled my native

Hungary for the United States, the

land of the free and the home of the

brave. I chose to become a citizen of

the Nation that saved my homeland

and the entire world from international

fascism and, later, from international

communism. Today, I proudly

reaffirm my allegiance and reenlist in

the new struggle to save this Nation

and the world from international terrorism.

I have never been prouder to serve in

the United States Congress than I have

during this week. The many words spoken

on the floor of this Chamber echo

the world over and testify to America’s

resilience in the face of adversity. All

of my colleagues who join this debate

do honor to this institution and to the

American people, whom we all serve.

But the time for words has passed,

Mr. Speaker, and the time for action is

upon us. We must now make our rhetoric

reality. We must now stand united

in word and in deed, and we shall not

flinch in the face of terror. Let us go

forth, certain in our knowledge that

should we cast this courageous vote.

We shall prevail.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of

my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am

pleased to yield 21⁄2 minutes to the gentleman

from California (Mr. SCHIFF), a

distinguished member of the Committee

on International Relations.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, tonight we

authorize the President to use all necessary

and appropriate military force

against any nation, organization or

person responsible for the terrible attacks

of September 11, or anyone who

harbors such individuals. Make no mistake;

it is a broad delegation of authority

to make war on those who have attacked

us. We do not do so lightly or

without consideration for the weighty

consequences of our act.

After the attacks of this week, many

Americans recalled Pearl Harbor. I

thought of the Battle of Britain and

Hitler’s indiscriminate bombings of

London, Churchill’s words still so powerfully

resonant:

So true of America. Little do these

petty tyrants and murderers know the

spirit of the American people or the

tough fiber of the New Yorkers, our defense

workers, or the civilians who

spared further casualties by taking

down the hijackers and their own plane

over Pennsylvania.

The face of this tyrant is new and yet

not so new. Like others before him, he

abhors a free society and democratic

institutions. He is willing to kill innocent

men, women and children to further

his perverse aims. There are no

means too inhuman, no tactic too appalling

to further his end. He thinks we

are weak because we do not tell our

citizens what to think, how to act,

whom to worship; because we tolerate

dissent. He does not realize this is our

strength, and he has awoken the sleeping

giant.

What these petty tyrants do not understand

and have never understood is

that for all of our rough-and-tumble

public discourse, we are one people,

under one President, and capable of

greater single-mindedness of purpose

than any repressive regime.

We will not relinquish our freedoms

of speech, assembly, and religion, nor

sacrifice our precious right of privacy

or way of life.

President Kennedy said. We pay it

still.

This is the battle of America. The

enemy may be new, but the fight has

always been the same. Our government,

our democracy, is premised on

basic human freedoms, on the right of

the governed to control their own national

destiny. The Civil War tested

whether any Nation so conceived could

long endure. We have endured. We will

go on, with growing confidence that we

can fight terrorism wherever we find it

and strengthened by the conviction

that the generation of Americans now

being tested will not falter or flag.

Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself such time as I may consume.

Before yielding back the balance of

our time, may I just say that I arrived

on these shores in August of 1947, and

in all those years I have never been

more proud to be an American than

this week. The unity, the goodness, the

commitment, the decency of our people

has been so obvious and clear and so

powerful and moving. This country will

stand united as we destroy international

terrorism, however long it

takes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance

of our time.