Mr. Speaker, I rise

in support of the authorization for the

use of military force. There are no

words to describe the anguish we and

all Americans feel. Our national spirit

has been dampened but not extinguished

by the despicable acts of September

11. President Bush has reassured

Americans that while those who

detest freedom may destroy brick and

mortar and even take the lives of innocents,

they cannot destroy the American

will. We can take comfort and

confidence in our national resolve and

depend on that to help us overcome

this temporary setback.

Clearly, we must rally around our

President. We must support his efforts

and make crystal clear the fact that

the American people are united and

resolute that we will take a stand

against attacks on our sovereignty and

that we will avenge this grievous act.

It is an American characteristic to

unify in times of crisis. It is important

to stand behind our President by authorizing

the use of military force

against those forces of evil. I am comforted

to know that this body will pass

this use of force resolution, probably

unanimously, later today.

I am sure that the entire membership

of this body joins me in praying for

God to guide us and our President.