Mr. Speaker, I

thank my good friend for yielding

time, and I join my colleagues in support

of this resolution authorizing the

use of military force. Our American

public and the free world look to us

today for leadership and swift action.

We cannot and we will not fail them.

The sheer horror of the events that

transpired in New York and the Pentagon

are unprecedented in our history

and they demand strong, decisive and

deliberate action. Anything less is an

abrogation of our responsibility as congressional

leaders and would be interpreted

by those who have utter disdain

for our country, for our institutions,

and for our people as a failure of resolve

and the ultimate sign of weakness.

Our enemies, whoever and wherever

they are, and those who harbor them,

must clearly understand that we will

never tolerate the acts of terrorism,

acts of war, that have been perpetrated

upon us and they must understand that

there is no escape from American justice.

Inaction is capitulation. Of one thing

I am certain, we as Americans will

never capitulate to terrorism or to any

interest that looks to destroy our Nation.

There comes a time when action

and force become an absolute necessity.

The families of those who died in

this unspeakable horror, mothers, fathers,

children, old and young, deserve

to know that they did not die in vain.

From this day forward we are a wiser,

changed people, stronger, more united,

firm in our commitment to our government,

our country, our freedom, and to

justice. Fear must not be allowed to

rule us.

God bless America.