Mr. Speaker, I rise

in strong support of this resolution.

War has been declared on this country.

Today we must answer. Without warning

or provocation on September 11, a

deliberate attack was launched, using

hijacked planes with innocent American

civilians to kill other innocent

American civilians and military personnel.

Unlike the terrorists who attacked

the innocent, our response will be

against the guilty. The U.S. Constitution

carefully divides the power to

wage war between Congress and the

President. I am confident that the resolution

before us today strikes the appropriate

balance between the President

and Congress. It gives the President

flexibility as Commander in Chief

to conduct military operations as he

sees fit, but it also requires the President

to consult and report to Congress.

It retains the important 60-day limit

on military action without further congressional

approval.

Make no mistake, this Congress and

the American people are committed to

seeing this war through to the end. We

realize that we are in for a long fight,

but Congress needs to take seriously

its responsibility to authorize the continued

use of force and not give up its

rights to the President. Our Founding

Fathers created this separation of powers

for an important reason, and their

ideals have served us well for the last

230 years.

Today, we join together in a day of

mourning and remembrance for those

we have lost. We pledge our best effort

to hunt down those responsible. We

owe no less to those whose blood has

been shed again for the cause of freedom.

I urge my colleagues to support this

resolution.