Mr. Speaker, it is fitting

on this national day of mourning

and remembrance that we take the

first steps in healing our Nation and

bringing those responsible for Tuesday’s

heinous acts to justice. We have

condemned the unspeakable aggression

visited upon our cities, we have united

the Nation behind the great symbol of

our American flag, and we have appropriated

emergency funds to help States

and communities to respond and to rebuild.

Now we face the hard task of going

forward, of responding soberly and deliberately,

but with great focus and

conviction, and with the full strength

and righteous fury of the United States

Armed Forces. In this, we are in unchartered

territory. While we have

fought great aggression before, our

means of authorizing action today fit

only imperfectly.

When Congress responded to Franklin

Roosevelt’s call in 1941 by declaring

war against the Japanese Empire, it

could do so with full knowledge. We

knew who had attacked us. We knew

that we would fight against another

sovereign nation in a traditional war

that would involve the full range of our

military forces. We knew what victory

would mean, and we were committed to

meeting that goal and we did.

The current circumstances leave us

with great uncertainty. We do not yet

know who committed these unspeakable

acts or where we may find them,

we do not know the scale and scope of

what bringing the perpetrators to justice

may mean, and we do not know

how long it may take.

Yet there are some things we do

know. We, the Congress, have a constitutional

duty to partner with the

President in undertaking military action.

We fulfill that duty here with this

resolution. While our actions here may

be imperfect, they are an essential first

step to show the unity of our Nation

behind our President and our commitment

to stand with our Armed Forces.

We also know that we will not be

alone. The world is behind us. Our

NATO allies, so long our partners and

friends, are all ready to stand with us.

They have acted upon the principle

that many throughout the world have

come to realize, that an attack on one

peace-loving country is an attack upon

all.

We also know that our response to

these attacks will require great sacrifice.

Our troops, who have long

earned our respect and admiration, will

be called again into harm’s way and

will need our unwavering support. Ordinary

Americans, already sacrificing

so much in the loss of those they love

and in their commitment to supporting

our Nation, will be called upon to sacrifice

still more. This battle will be

long and difficult, and it will require

concerted resolve from all Americans.

For us in Congress, we must continue

to work with the President, recognizing

that the actions of the weeks

and months ahead will require both

branches of government to execute

their constitutional duties. We must

improve our intelligence capabilities

and assess the ability of our government

to respond to unthinkable possibilities.

After Tuesday, we know we

must think about them strategically

and thoroughly.

Mr. Speaker, let us stand together

and pass this resolution.