Mr. Speaker, almost

60 years ago the United States suffered

massive casualties in a surprise attack

on one of our military bases. On Tuesday,

September 11, Americans were

forced to relive the terror of another

brutal and malicious attack on our

citizens.

Then, just as now, our Nation rose up

as one to respond to a horrific incident

with steadfast determination to defend

ourselves and to find and punish the

aggressors. The resolution before us

gives the President authority to use all

necessary and appropriate force

against those nations, organizations or

persons he determines planned, authorized,

committed, or aided in these terrorist

attacks. Make no mistake about

it: the cowardly terrorists responsible

for bringing harm to our American

family will be punished.

A force resolution was presented to

Congress in 1991 which did not receive

my support, for I felt the situation

lacked the gravity required before we

put our men and women in uniform in

harm’s way. Our borders were not at

risk of an invasion; our citizens were

not in imminent danger.

The tragic events of this week have

violated all these precepts. We must respond

swiftly and with force against

those who maimed and killed innocent

Americans, men, women and children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues

to vote to endorse this resolution.