Mr. Speaker, I also rise

in strong support for this resolution

authorizing the use of military force

against those who attacked our Nation

on September 11, 2001. On this day of

national remembrance and mourning,

we must act to ensure that those who

have lost their lives in these horrific

acts of violence have not died in vain.

Earlier today, we heard the words of

our spiritual leaders reassuring us and

giving us solace at this difficult time.

Now, as the Nation’s political leaders,

we must act.

We do so with the devastation of

these attacks fresh in our minds. New

York Mayor Giuliani reported that

nearly 5,000 people have been reported

missing. At the Pentagon, over 100 are

dead or still missing. We must not forget

those innocent people aboard the

planes, nearly 200 killed. If these estimates

hold true, they would amount to

twice as many casualties as those suffered

in the Japanese attack on Pearl

Harbor.

Their deaths cannot go unanswered,

or more Americans will die the next

time terrorists want to champion their

unjust cause at our expense. The

United States must respond with our

full might and force to destroy these

terrorists and all who give them aid

and safe harbor.

Today, the House of Representatives

will authorize the President of the

United States to use the Armed Forces

against those nations and organizations

responsible for Tuesday’s destruction.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility,

our duty, to empower our President

to act and act decisively.