Mr. Speaker, it now appears

that Tuesday’s attacks will have

taken over 5,000 of our friends, family,

and neighbors. Five thousand innocents

murdered because they were

Americans. If this does not call for an

American military action of some sort,

then I do not know what does. We are

talking about nearly double the number

of people who were killed in Pearl

Harbor and, clearly, the largest military

attack on American civilians in

our Nation’s history.

A well-funded international terrorist

organization has declared war on us,

and we can do no less than fight this

enemy as we would any Nation that

had committed the same atrocities.

Whether it is tomorrow, next week, or

next month, we know that the only

message that these butchers will understand

is a timely decisive show of

American might. Our decision to take

action will not be made in haste. We

will pinpoint those responsible and

make our judgment swift and effective.

This is not about revenge, Mr. Speaker.

It is a means of ensuring that those

who would wreak acts of terror upon

the United States know the price of

their barbarity. America is the world’s

symbol of freedom, of prosperity. The

idea that is America has been savagely

attacked, and we have an obligation to

the world to defend the values we embody.

Nations across the world have offered

their condolences, their prayers, and

pledges of logistical support should we

choose to take military action. They

know that the next attack may not be

New York or Washington, but Brussels

or London. We have the responsibility

and the power to bring these terrorists

to justice.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge has been

issued and now it is up to us to decide

whether we will rise to the occasion.

Supporting the President is our duty to

the victims and to the world.