Mr. Speaker, 3 days

ago, on September 11, our Nation suffered

a grave terrorist attack that

challenged not just America but democracy

itself. Today, the American

family gathered in churches, mosques,

and synagogues to remember and pray

for the victims of this unforgivable act.

As generations before us, we will rise

as one Nation behind one flag to defeat

a common enemy. It is with this unity

of purpose that we consider this joint

resolution authorizing the use of all

necessary and appropriate force

against those responsible for this barbarous

attack. My colleagues, today is

only the beginning. This power we are

about to entrust in the President is essential

to ensure that our Nation is

able to eradicate a vile weed all the

way down to its roots.

We too, as the elected representatives

of the men and women of America,

are responsible for the successful

prosecution of this endeavor. In the

weeks and months ahead, we must act

and work as one with the President as

he consults regularly with Congress

about the status and progress of our

great Nation’s efforts against those

who planned, perpetrated or were

complicit in the infamy and inhumanity

of September 11, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, God speed to all of us as

we prepare to undertake this dramatic

struggle to restore the peace and security

we as Americans cherish.