Mr. Speaker, the

senseless human tragedy caused by the

craven terrorist acts of September 11,

2001 weigh heavily on our minds and

will do so for days, months, and years

to come.

Many have said our Nation will never

be the same. I agree. Our Nation is

stronger, more united, more proud

than possibly any time in our history.

The outpouring of grief and support

both here and around the world has

been comforting. The terrorists may

have collapsed our buildings, but in response,

we are building a stronger

America.

America is based on a Constitution

and our laws. Under Section 2(c)(3) of

the War Powers Act, the President already

has the ability to use the military

to respond to an attack upon our

country and our Armed Forces. Nothing

in the resolution supersedes any requirement

of the War Powers Act. The

President has authority to respond

against those who perpetrated the acts

on September 11.

Under the resolution of force pending

today, Congress will reserve the right

to review the President’s plans and actions.

But make no mistake, this Congress

will stand behind our young men

and women in uniform who may be put

in harm’s way and we will stand with

President Bush as Commander in Chief.

I hope and pray the President will use

the awesome force of the United States

with great deliberation and wisdom.