Mr. Speaker, I stand in

strong support of this resolution.

There is no question that we are

strongly united. I have been in this

House for almost 20 years, and I have

not seen so much unity, not only

among the House Members, but

throughout this great country.

We have to realize that 2 days ago,

the dreams and hopes of many young

men and women and people of this

country were destroyed by the acts of

these terrorists.

I had a chance to go visit the Pentagon

yesterday. I could see the civilian

agencies locally, nationally, our

military working and singing from the

same page. It is distressing to see that

many families lost their fathers, mothers,

uncles and many families.

The best thing I can say to those terrorists

is do not mess with the U.S.A.

God bless America.

I rise in support of the resolution, the first

step this Congress will take to exact retribution

for the act of war committed upon this nation,

striking at the heart of our financial and military

centers and taking dead aim at our political

center.

Let Congress’ message ring very loud to

those responsible for this act of war: we recognize

it as such—and the people’s representatives

respond in kind.

We have been hit hard, and we have lost

family, friends, children, mothers, fathers, and

many dreams died.

We lost our innocence to a large degree;

and the number of people we lost exceeds the

casualties of Pearl Harbor.

This resolution respects the Constitutional

power to declare war, the most awesome responsibility

given to Congress.

Since we have yet to discover definitive

proof of all those responsible—including nations

which gave Osama bin Laden safe harbor—

we must give the administration the authority

to pursue these international criminals

until we have the information we need to declare

war.

I have seen the morale of the emergency

workers at the Pentagon and seen the looks

of grim determination on the faces of those

who work there every day.

They are now helping clean up the mess

and recover the bodies of their comrades in

arms.

Their morale is very high

The morale of the nation is very high.

This is a hard decision for Congress to

make—usually.

Today the decision is not so difficult.

These terrorists brought their destruction to

bear inside our borders.

As the Ranking Democrat on the Armed

Services Readiness Subcommittee, let me

offer my advice to my colleagues.

We must not telegraph our punches.

Here’s what that means: we don’t tell the

enemy how we will conduct our campaign, nor

what kind of force to expect.

It will be swift, overwhelming and deadly,

but let that be all we tell bin Laden and his

bunch.

Let us give our military the money they

need and send them to do what they do best:

fight and win wars.

Our armed services have some of the most

talented people in the nation, capable of doing

whatever mission we need done.

Most importantly, let them utilize the element

of surprise, which, as we all know is a

brutally effective part of the arsenal.

Finally, a word to the people who perpetrated

this act of war.

I want to explain to you why your efforts to

damage our nation—or undermine our democracy—

are futile.

We are a nation of laws, not people.

It is our ideas and our commitment to liberties

and democracy that bind us together

under our Constitution.

Washington is not where the power is; that

power lies with the people of this nation.

Nothing illustrates that better than on Tuesday

when the House Call Center redirected all

incoming House calls to our district offices,

scattered across the country when we evacuated.

Our meeting place here in this building is

where we come to do the people’s business,

but we are temporary employees of the people

who elect us.

If a member of our government is lost, another

is elected.

Our power is in the people who populate

this nation, and the ideas that bind us together.

Your power is in hate and wealth.

We will win.

The last thing you will see is the mighty

power of the United States military.

May God—and Allah—have mercy on your

soul, and on all who harbor you.