Mr. Speaker,

like our President, we as Members of

this great institution all took a solemn

oath to defend and support the Constitution

of the United States against

all enemies, both here and abroad. As

copartners in this endeavor, our adoption

of this resolution will join us with

the Senate in sending an unequivocal

message that the United States Congress

firmly supports our President in

taking all necessary and appropriate

action, including the use of military

force, to pursue and punish the persons

and organizations who treacherously

murdered thousands of innocent Americans

this past Tuesday.

Mr. Speaker I have seen my share of

blood spilled in Vietnam, and it is always

a most difficult decision for me

to support this authorization to send

our men and women in military uniform

into harm’s way. Given the terrible

heinous attacks on thousands of

innocent Americans this past Tuesday,

I have no reservations that the President

must be given this authorization

to wage war against international terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely critical

that the President is successful in this

endeavor, for I fear that the next chapter

of terrorism will be even more horrific

and will likely involve weapons of

mass destruction, such as nuclear

weapons and biological and chemical

agents, which long have been available

in the international black market.

For the protection of our Nation and

our way of life, I urge my colleagues to

support the President by adoption of

this resolution.