Mr. Speaker, I thank the

gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, today we are authorizing

the use of the U.S. military

against those responsible for the recent

attacks launched against us. We are

simply at war. We did not seek this

war; but make no mistake, we will respond.

We will finish the conflict on

our terms, but only after we determine

that our enemies have been defeated.

The coming days, weeks and months

will continue to test us. We will hear

heart-breaking stories, see tragic images.

We will continue to say good-bye

to American troops as they head off to

defend us against terror and those who

hate America, those who hate everything

that America stands for: freedom

of speech, freedom of religion and freedom

of democracy.

As President John F. Kennedy once

said,

We will

persevere. We will be victorious.

God bless our great country.