Mr. Speaker, I thank

the gentleman from California, my

friend, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to

speak again about the heinous crime

committed against the American people,

people all over the land, living

here in the United States, and against

our great Nation.

On Tuesday, September 11, the lives

of all Americans changed forever. As a

Nation, we have grieved and we have

joined our hearts together in prayer.

We have watched as our lives have been

put on hold so that we may honor the

dead and the missing. We keep hope

alive for the brave men and women who

continue to work around the clock to

search for life and survivors.

I spoke yesterday about my dear

cousin, Battalion Chief John Moran,

who so bravely dedicated his life to the

saving of the lives of others at the site

of this attack. My cousin, like so many

others who are heroes, has not been

found.

Mr. Speaker, we will all be rebuilding

emotionally and physically for some

time to come. Our great Nation stands

changed for ever. Yet somehow it is

also stronger, more united, and more

defiantly proud than ever. These truly

are, as our great President Abraham

Lincoln stated during another difficult

period in American history, the times

that try men’s souls.

Our physical symbols have been destroyed

and thousands of lives are

feared lost, but our values and ideals of

freedom and democracy stand stronger

than ever. These values shared by all

Americans of all religions and backgrounds

is what causes such hatred and

jealousy in the hearts and the minds of

our enemies.

I recently saw a photograph of the

New York City skyline which had in its

midst the image of a new skyscraper

where the towers of the World Trade

Center once stood, and the caption on

top said, ‘‘we will rebuild.’’

Mr. Speaker, we will rebuild. While

we honor those who have lost their

lives and try to absorb the terrible

losses of the last several days and try

in our own individual and collective

ways to move forward, we cannot forget

the perpetrators of this reprehensible

crime; those who planned, authorized,

aided and abetted these attacks.

They must not and they will not go

unpunished. But, Mr. Speaker, make no

mistake; the response of the United

States, the House of Representatives,

has been carefully considered.

We have all taken a deep breath and

searched our hearts and souls for an

appropriate and just response.

I myself have just come back from

visiting ground zero with our President

in New York. I stood with him surrounded

by firefighters, police officers,

and rescue workers who have worked

since Tuesday tirelessly searching for

bodies, praying to find anyone who survived

this horrific attack.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to stand

there with my President, with my colleagues,

and with these brave men and

women. And for the first time this

week, I felt a glimmer of hope and a

whole lot of pride, pride for our Nation

that takes care of itself, for a nation

that has men and women like the ones

I saw and met today and this week who

have put themselves in harm’s way to

save the lives of others; proud that despite

the destruction of physical symbols,

that it is the undying principles

that endure.

Tonight we consider another measure,

this one to enable the President,

our Commander in Chief, to use whatever

means required to bring this crime

to justice. For the memory of those

who served and the memory of those

innocent lives taken so very prematurely,

it is the very least we can

do. Americans by nature are not a

vengeful people, but we need to respond

to these attacks so as to ensure that

they never happen again.

As the Commander in Chief, the

President must provide for the common

defense and promote the general

welfare of our people, this resolution

permits our Commander in Chief to do

just that.

I support this resolution, not lightly

but without hesitation. This resolution

and the authority it contains allows

for the protection of our American way

of life for generations to come.