Mr.

Speaker, I rise today in strong support

of S.J. Res. 23. With the passage of this

joint resolution, Congress stands

united with the President and the

brave men and women in uniform ready

to wage war on global terrorism. Although

S.J. Res. 23 is not a formal declaration

of war, the resolution gives

the President full authority to use

force against these terrorists and is

similar to the use of force resolution

authorizing military operations during

the Persian Gulf conflict in 1991.

Of course, a key to making this work

is the continued willingness of the executive

to continue to consult with legislators.

I am confident the President

will do just that. Make no mistake,

failure to act in unison at home and

abroad will be interpreted by our enemies

as weakness and an invitation to

commit further atrocities. We have to

put aside our differences, quiet our

rhetoric and act decisively now.

Mr. Speaker, today I read Leonard

Pitts’ column in the Miami Herald. Addressing

his words to the faceless cowards

responsible for Tuesday’s attacks

he wrote:

I urge all my colleagues to support

S.J. Res. 23.