Mr. Speaker, I intend

to vote for this resolution. Nearly

every Member of Congress this week

has said this: on Tuesday, September

11, our country was brutally attacked.

It was an act of war. It demands response.

Under our Constitution, the President

of the United States is commander

in chief. When America is attacked,

he assumes the obligations of

the commander in chief. It does not

matter whether the President is someone

you voted for. Our country has

only one President and only one commander

in chief.

This resolution authorizes the use of

force by America. As a matter of law,

the War Powers Act may not even require

this resolution. The President

likely already has the legal authority

needed.

But this afternoon most of us prayed

together at the National Cathedral. At

the end of the service, we stood together

and we sang ‘‘The Battle Hymn

of the Republic.’’ As we sang, I could

not help but recall that when ‘‘The

Battle Hymn of the Republic’’ was

written, our country was divided, and

it was the last time on American soil

when massive numbers of Americans

died in war, until this Tuesday. At the

end of the song, we sang, ‘‘As He died

to make men holy, let us die to make

men free.’’

While this resolution may not be legally

required, it is important to show

that we are united; that when America

is attacked, Americans stand together.

Those who died on Tuesday will have

died to make us free.