Mr. Speaker, I

rise in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy, heavy

heart, to join my colleagues to authorize our

President, to use the necessary and appropriate

force against those who will be identified

as the perpetrators of the terrorists act of

Tuesday, September 11, 2001, that killed so

many of our loved ones, in a diabolical attempt

to strike fear in the hearts of our Nation’s

leaders and all Americans.

Yes, we must vindicate those thousands of

lives, like Sgt. Maudlin White of my district, so

that their dying will not be in vain.

But, Mr. Speaker, I stand here humbled by

the heavy responsibility that is ours—the specific

authority to declare war that is bestowed

by the Constitution, on us as Members of this

body.

And though I stand here with my colleagues,

in this awesome time of decision, I

do so as one who is not afforded the opportunity

to cast a vote. At many other times, I

have felt the sting of not being fully able to

participate in our democracy, but never more

than tonight. For tonight we authorize our

President to send my constituents, like all others

to a war unlike any other before, and perhaps

to die for this country, which we love.

But we must, because now we fight a war,

where all of us—at home, at work, at school,

at church, and anywhere—are at risk, as was

so clearly and tragically shown this week. And

so, while many of us harbor reservations

about the breadth of the powers bestowed, we

must stand by our President, and for our fellow

Americans, and pray for God’s wisdom,

and guidance, as he carries out the heavy

weight of his office.

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a time when

decisive and immediate decisive military action

would be required as soon as certain information

becomes known, it is in the wake of Tuesday’s

unprovoked and unwarranted attacks in

which innocent lives were snuffed out, for no

apparent purpose save that of general hatred

of Americans, America and all that she stands

for.

The Bible tells us many things: It teaches

that we should ‘‘not render evil for evil,’’ but it

also tells us ‘‘if one lives by the sword, one

will die by the sword.’’ The perpetrator of

Tuesday’s attacks and other attacks surely

planned, used and will yet use the sword of violence

against us, unless we stop them.

We must act, and act swiftly and decisively,

but we must also prepare ourselves better to

prevent further attacks, and examine through

honest introspection, if we have, in any way,

given cause for such hate.

And as we prepare to exact justice on the

perpetrators of this heinous crime, we must

also be certain that we are indeed going after

those who committed these crimes, and not

be over-reaching in our response.

We must proceed with extreme and due

caution, not so to wage war based on existing

prejudices, motives, or questionable information,

lest we inadvertently become one of the

world’s terrorists ourselves.

And so, prayerfully, I join my colleagues in

support of this resolution to authorize our

President, George W. Bush, to use the authority

vested in him by the Constitution of the

United States, to take action to deter and prevent

acts of international terrorism against the

United States and our Allies.

May God bless and keep our President, and

may God bless and keep America, and may

our divine Parent bless and keep us all.