Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of

this resolution. It authorizes the President to

use all necessary and appropriate force

against those who attacked our country on

September 11, or those who aided or harbored

them. The death and destruction that

rained down from the skies on Tuesday has

horrified and outraged the entire nation. We

can never replace the innocent lives that were

lost, but we honor their grievous loss when we

act to prevent such a heinous crime from happening

again.

The enemy that did this must be identified

and punished. Their network of support must

be uprooted. In the difficult effort ahead, we

must be resolute, determined and united in

purpose. The resolution before the House tonight

reinforces and supports the powers

granted to the President in the Constitution as

Commander in Chief and those granted him

under the War Powers Act. More than that, it

underscores the determination of Congress to

stand with the President, the men and women

of our nation’s armed forces, and all Americans

in the great task before us.

As a freedom loving people, we did not

seek this fight. But as nation that loves freedom,

we shall not shun it. Let us stand together

and pass this resolution.