Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight

in strong support of this resolution. What we

are doing tonight is authorizing the use of our

Armed Forces for war. It is a war we did not

want, and it is a war we did not start. But the

primary responsibility of any government must

be the protection of its citizens, and so Tuesday’s

attacks on the citizens of the United

States have left us with no choice. The perpetrators

of these heinous crimes must be

found, and then they must suffer the consequences

of their deeds.

I take this vote tonight knowing there will be

challenges ahead. There will be danger. And

there will be sacrifice. But this is a war we

must win. For us as Americans, and for the

free world.

Terrorists use fear as a weapon. But we will

not surrender to fear. Because they are not

just facing the best-trained and best-equipped

military the world has ever known; they are

facing the fierce determination and the quiet

anger of the American people. The attacks on

Tuesday were designed to bring chaos to the

United States, but it has done just the opposite.

We stand together as one nation. We understand

there will be challenges ahead. And

we know what must be done. And that is why

we are here tonight and authorizing the President

to use all necessary force to destroy

these terrorist organizations. September 11th

is a day we will always remember, and I believe

it is a day the enemies of freedom will

live to regret.