Mr. Speaker, as brave Americans

continue working to rescue and treat those

trapped under the remains of the World Trade

Center and the damaged Pentagon, my heart

and prayers continue to be with those who

have lost loved ones and those with loved

ones still to be found.

Since Tuesday, I have seen Americans in

our finest hour. We have experienced the

deepest of loss, sadness, despair, and anger.

But Americans have joined together to help

each other, and I am proud.

We Americans demand that individuals, organizations,

or countries responsible for this

monstrous act be brought to justice. Our actions

must be deliberate, decisive, and effective.

We will not deliberately attack innocent civilians

and become like our attackers.

Article I, section 8 of the our Constitution

grants to Congress the authority ‘‘To declare

War.’’

This is one of the most profound of powers.

The Founders recognized that the power to

send our sons and daughters to war is the

most important decision a nation can make.

They invested this power in Congress, the institution

closest to the people.

I believe this solemn congressional responsibility

is critical to protecting the delicate balance

of power between the legislative and executive

branches. This balance of power was

carefully crafted and has allowed the United

States to remain one of the most stable and

enduring democracies in the world.

I would have strong reservations about a

resolution authorizing the use of force in an

open ended manner reaching far beyond responding

to this specific terrorist attack on

America. This is not that resolution.

This resolution restates the authority I believe

Congress already granted to the President

under Section 2(c)(3) of the War Powers

Resolution. My reading is that nothing in this

resolution supersedes congressional authority

under the Constitution or War Powers Resolution

and the President would continue to be

bound by the reporting and consultation requirements.

Under this resolution, Congress

reserves the right to review the President’s

plans and actions.

The purpose of our restatement, of this use

of force resolution, is to demonstrate that

America stands united. I pray that President

Bush will use the awesome powers of the

United States with wisdom.