Mr. Speaker, I rise in support

of the Joint War Powers Resolution, but

not without reservation. Clearly, the terrorist

attacks on September 11th caused unprecedented

death, destruction and despair in our

nation. The attacks struck a blow not only to

our citizens and buildings, but also against our

values, our freedoms, our way of life. They

touched all of us; and we must seek justice,

honor our fellow citizens, and prevent further

terrorist acts.

Today, we join with the President to undertake

such acts as are necessary to prevent

any future acts of terrorism against our citizens.

Today, and for many days ahead, we

hurt, we mourn, and we honor the memory of

those whose lives were taken by the terrorist

attacks, and those whose lives were lost in

courageous rescue efforts. Many of our citizens

are angry, indeed, enraged and want to

strike back, and we must strike back.

We do not understand and may never understand

why anyone would commit such unspeakable,

horrific deeds. The terrorists

sought to instill in us fear and insecurity. To

this, we must not submit; we must strike back.

We must take the necessary actions to safeguard

our lives and American interests, but we

must not relinquish our cherished freedoms

and values.

In America, we cherish our values, our humanity,

our love of justice. Therefore, as we

pursue the terrorists, and those who aided or

harbored them, we must not become terrorists.

We must not become filled with the evil

force which we abhor in the terrorists. We

must strike back, but must do so consistently

with the values that we hold dear. The President

should act only on the basis of convincing

evidence of the identity of the terrorists,

and employ that force which is necessary

to deter and prevent future acts of terrorism

against our citizens. The authorization we give

the President today is not unlimited. Congress

will monitor progress of our military actions

and work with the President to ensure that our

actions under this resolution are necessary

and appropriate, consistent with our values, in

conjunction with our friends and allies, and in

accordance with international laws.

We are a strong and resilient nation. We will

recover and rebuild our broken lives, our buildings

and our way of life. Let us pray that

God’s grace and wisdom will guide us through

the difficult days ahead.