Mr. Speaker,

I rise this evening to express my strongest

support possible for H.J. Res 64, a resolution

authorizing the use of United States Armed

Forces against those responsible for the recent

attacks against our country. I want to

thank the leadership of both parties for acting

as quickly as they did to bring this legislation

forth.

Mr. Speaker, only a few hours ago, I stood

at Ground Zero, in lower Manhattan, with

President Bush and many of my colleagues

and viewed first hand the devastating destruction

that occurred in New York City on Tuesday

morning, September 11, 2001. We saw

the mountains of rubble that once was the

World Trade Center. We saw the neighboring

buildings that surround this area that are also

damaged. We talked to city and state officials

and learned about the tremendous economic

impact this event will have. But most importantly,

what we did not see was the thousands

of people, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters,

brothers, sisters, friends all, who were indiscriminately

killed by cowards. This attack on

our innocent citizens, this attack on our nation’s

financial center and on the heart of our

national defense, the Pentagon, and the hundreds

of people who died there, must not go

unpunished. I know I stand united with my colleagues

tonight, shoulder to shoulder, in supporting

the President of the United States to

give him the authority and tools necessary to

seek justice to this most horrific act of violence.

This nation has never wanted war. We are

a peaceful nation. And, I do not take these actions

that we are authorizing tonight lightly, but

I believe the American people understand that

there are those times when the actions by others

must be answered. This is one of those

times. We must respond, in kind and with a

united voice, to the actions of these ruthless

forces. I know the American people are willing

to endure even a protracted campaign, if necessary,

in order to secure the future of our

country.

I urge my colleagues to vote unanimously in

support of this resolution. God bless the

United States.