Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday,

September 11, 2001, the United States suffered

perhaps the darkest day in its history.

Yesterday, this body approved legislation to

aid the families of the victims and those that

gave their lives trying to save them. Today, we

turn our attention to the pursuit of the terrorists

that carried out this horrific act. I strongly support

this resolution to authorize the President

to use the necessary force to find and punish

those responsible.

I do not believe passing this resolution is legally

necessary. The Constitution gives the

President the power to strike back at our aggressors.

However, I do believe that it is necessary

for Congress to show overwhelming

support for the battle that lies ahead. It will not

be an easy fight, and it will not be a short one.

But it is a confrontation that we will meet head

on, united by the memory of those lost and

the values and freedom we hold so dearly.

And we will be victorious.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we send a clear message

to the world that we are prepared to respond

to the forces of hate as previous generations

have done before us. I am confident

that the compassion and resolve that has

come to define the American spirit will see us

through this most trying time. I urge my colleagues

to support this resolution.