Mr. Speaker, America was

changed forever on Tuesday morning. Every

one of us has been deeply affected by the terror

attack on our Nation. Virtually all of us

know someone or know of someone who was

directly impacted.

Yesterday, I visited the Pentagon and saw

first-hand the destruction that was inflicted on

that building and its occupants. I am not able

to find words to adequately convey just how

chilling a scene it was, and I will never forget

those gruesome images.

Law enforcement officials are moving swiftly

to identify those who were responsible for this

heinous crime. Soon it will be clear who committed

these unspeakable acts, and those who

supported and protected them. And once it is

clear the United States will respond.

We respond not simply out of revenge. We

act because war has been declared upon

America. We act because our world must be

rid of terrorists who think nothing of destroying

innocent lives. We act in the name of thousands

of innocent victims.

This was not just an attack on four planes,

or two buildings, or one nation. Rather, it was

an attack on democracy and freedom around

the globe. America and our allies will rise to

the occasion and fight this scourge just as we

have risen to defeat past threats to civilization

and democracy.

To that end, today I will vote to authorize

President Bush to use all necessary and appropriate

force to respond to the terror attacks

on our nation. This resolution conveys the resolve

of the Congress and the American people

that those responsible for this heinous

crime will be identified and punished.