Mr. Speaker, I rise in

strong support of this resolution granting authority

to the President to use force to respond

to the attack on the United States on September

11, 2001.

Our country was the target of an

unprovoked, cowardly and vicious attack on

Tuesday morning. This act of war committed

against our people must not go unanswered

and I urge the President to use the authority

we are about to give him in an appropriate

and decisive manner. We must prevail over

our enemy and we must be willing to use the

force necessary to achieve total victory.

At this dramatic moment in our history, as

we grieve for the loss of thousands of innocent

lives and begin to bury our dead, we

must not lose sight that this was not just an

attack on our government or even our nation.

This must be seen as a monstrous attack

aimed at the security and way of life of freedom-

loving people throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, words cannot adequately describe

my feelings or the feelings of Americans

with regard to the attack on New York

and Washington. However, I know that

through the sadness and anger will grow an

unbending determination not to be intimidated

by the forces of terror and death. America is

a great and a good country. We are also now

a united people with a common purpose—to

seek out and crush the terrorists and their

supporters.

I urge support for this resolution, for our

President and for the people of the United

States.