Mr. Speaker, I rise today in

support of this resolution. Our nation was viciously

attacked on Tuesday, September 11,

2001, leaving children without fathers and

mothers, parents mourning their missing children,

families experiencing terrible emptiness

and loss. All Americans feel the horror, shock,

fear, and anger.

The country has been attacked, and as

Commander-in-Chief, the President has the

power to act to defend the United States of

America. Congress recognized this nearly thirty

years ago in the War Powers Resolution.

Yet by recognizing the authority our President

already possesses under the War Power

Resolution, we send a strong statement of national

unity. By approving this resolution today,

we stand united, as one nation, stating clearly

to the perpetrators of this crime, and those

who would attack our country in the future,

that we will protect our citizens and ensure the

guilty are punished.

The horrible crisis is also an opportunity. It

is an opportunity for the United States to once

again demonstrate to the world the sources of

its strength and greatness. I am not speaking

of our military might, although it is powerful.

We will demonstrate our greatness by the way

we seek justice and the way we promote freedom.

We will determine with certainty who is

culpable and punish them and those who aid

them, rather than let our rage lash out indiscriminately.

Community leaders in my district have produced

a statement expressing their outrage

and sorrow. Wisely they noted that the victims

of this attack reflect the diversity of America.

They wrote in fact that: ‘‘the backgrounds of

its innocent victims are representative of the

world’s diversity, from Africa to the Americas,

Europe to Asia, the Middle East, and beyond.’’

As we move forward in seeking justice for the

many victims, we must direct our punishment

only upon the guilty.

The American people stand behind this

quest for justice. With our many friends

around the world, we will fight to end the

scourge of terrorism. As we rise to this challenge,

we must do so relying on America’s

strengths without sacrificing our cherished

principles. Our constitutional liberties stand as

an example to the world of what freedom

means. We must never forget that we pursue

justice in order to secure liberty.