Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate other members

being here, especially those of you who have served in our military.

There’s no question about it, Muammar Ghadafi is a bad guy.

He’s an outlaw. But there are a lot of rulers who are bad guys and

outlaws. Now, is it the United States omnipotent power and decision

making that we will trot around the world and eliminate who

we think, more specifically who the administration thinks, is a bad

guy, and has to go?

Abraham Lincoln said, ‘‘Kings have always been involved in impoverishing

people in wars, pertaining generally, if not always, that

the good of the people was the object.’’

Madison to Jefferson, ‘‘The Constitution supposes what history of

all governments demonstrates, that the executive is the branch of

power most interested in war, and most prone to it.’’ And accordingly,

with study care vested the question of war with our legislature.

Washington, ‘‘The Constitution vests the power of declaring war

with Congress. There is no offense expedition of importance can be

undertaken until after they’ve deliberated on the subject, and authorized

such a measure.’’

Well, we have not authorized this war. The War Powers Act; the

administration has not complied with the War Powers Act. Secretary

Gates has said, ‘‘This is not in our national security interest

that we drop bombs in Libya. Therefore, there is no national emergency

created by an attack on the U.S., the territories, or our

armed forces.’’

So, the Constitution doesn’t authorize it, the War Powers Act

doesn’t authorize this war in the name of humanity in Libya, and

it is the responsibility of Congress and, I agree with the ranking

member, it is our duty as Members of Congress to rein this war

in and control the purse strings. And I don’t think it’s appropriate

for Congress to declare war after war has already started. We

should be involved before any war takes place, including war in the

name of humanity.

I will yield back my time.