Mr. Speaker, in June

of 2000, President Clinton allowed me

the great honor to take some veterans

back to Korea in commemoration of

the 50th anniversary of the Korean

War. They were all members of the

Second Infantry Division. We left Fort

Lewis, Washington, in July and August

of 1950, and we had left more men behind

dead than came home.

The raggedy group of veterans that

went back, all black because we were

in a segregated infantry unit, most had

not gone to college, and, like myself,

some had not even finished high school,

we thought then that we were fighting

for our country. But the more education

I got, the more sophisticated I

got, I realized we were fighting for the

United Nations.

Then when I became a Member of

Congress and I led this same group of

tattered veterans back to the same

battlefields, they asked, why did Congress

send them to South Korea and expose

them to North Korean and Chinese

warfare? And I had to tell them

that this Congress never did send them

there. No vote was ever taken in this

Congress to say that they were at war

with the people of North Korea or the

People’s Republic of China.

I made a vow to them, and I am keeping

it today, that never will I delegate

the responsibility of considering the

dangers of war. I will not leave it to

the President, unless he brings me evidence

that we are in danger. I will not

give it to the United Nations, because

I do not believe that this sacred responsibility

should be transferred. And

I do believe that each and every one of

those veterans, if they thought our beloved

country was in trouble, would be

the first to stand up to salute the flag

and be prepared to destroy what enemy

we had, preemptive or not.

I am against this resolution.