I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution today. In March the

House passed a resolution that authorized the deployment of

peacekeeping troops in Kosovo.

In that resolution we asked some very reasonable things of the

President. We asked him to clarify the national security interests in

Kosovo, to state the goal of the mission, to estimate its costs, to

develop an exit strategy, and to report on the mission's impact on our

ability elsewhere in the world to respond to threats to our national

security. To date we have not received a satisfactory response on any

of these. Yet, they remain precisely the questions we are dealing with

today.

The mission in Kosovo is draining valuable military resources and

limiting our ability to deal with rogue states elsewhere in the world.

Kosovo detracts from our ability to be a superpower. I support this

resolution because Kosovo is no more in our national interest than was

Rwanda, Algeria, Congo, East Timor, or a host of other places.

Mr. Speaker, I look around this room and I see my senior

colleagues, like the gentleman from California (Mr. Matsui), the

gentleman

from Georgia (Mr. Lewis), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Gephardt),

and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hastert), and I realize very

clearly that over the years as the baton has passed from one generation

to the next in this political body, that those men and women who serve

here manage to make sure that the young men and women who serve in our

Armed Forces are used properly for vital national security interests.

I am proud to be here as a new Member. I take very seriously my

charge to vouchsafe and keep secure the interests of those young babies

now who come to our country as new citizens from birth and what have

you. And I absolutely do not understand, Mr. Speaker, what the vital

national security interest that senior Members of this body on both

sides of the aisle have protected for years and years, what national

security interest it is that we are proposing to protect by conducting

a unquantified and unidentified military campaign in Yugoslavia,

whether it be in the air or on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I have been a Member of this

House for 14 weeks, as I shared earlier today; and I have to tell my

colleagues, my pride in serving here and the honor that I share in

being here multiplied at least three orders of magnitude today.

I am a thousand times more proud today of the action of this House in

exercising its constitutional authority as one of the legs of this

government in specifying its concerns from both sides of the aisle as

to the action we have been undertaking in Kosovo.

I want to note for the record that in fact this was a bipartisan vote

on both sides of the question. There were more Republicans voting in

favor of continuing the President's action in Kosovo than there were

Democrats voting against it. But, in fact, there were Members on both

sides of the question, from both sides of the aisle.

This is a strength of America. It is the thing we have that no one

else in this world does. It is something to be proud of rather than

question. And I am still honored to be here.

God bless the United States of America.