Mr. Speaker, like all Members of Congress during the

Memorial week break, I had two occasions to give different types of

recognition speeches to the families of those who gave loved ones who

never came back from war; so therefore I had several opportunities in

eastern North Carolina, the home of Camp Lejeune Marine Base and Cherry

Point Marine Corps Air Station.

Every time I would make the comment that it was time to bring our

troops home from Afghanistan and that it was time to stop paying the

crook named Karzai, who is the President of Afghanistan, truthfully,

Mr. Speaker, I would get strong applause; and many times after the

speeches, people would come up to me and say, We agree with you. It's

time to stop spending this money in Afghanistan. It's time to start

spending the money in America and to let the Afghans take care of

themselves.

Mr. Speaker, probably a couple of weeks ago, I spoke on the floor of

the House, and probably other Members had seen the article that was in

The New York Times in which the CIA acknowledged that, after 10 years,

they had been giving hundreds of millions of dollars to Karzai in cash.

In that same article, Karzai was interviewed, and one of his comments

was that of ``an easy source of petty cash.'' Karzai wants to continue

to get an easy source of petty cash--tens of millions of dollars going

to Karzai in order to prop him up until the Taliban takes Afghanistan

over. When I think about the number of young men and women being killed

in Afghanistan to prop up this corrupt leader, it reminds me of another

tragedy in recent American history--the tragedy of the unnecessary war

in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, this past week, in being home, I watched three times on

HBO a movie called ``Taking Chance,'' which is the true story of

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Strobl's journey to escort the body of PFC

Chance Phelps, a fellow marine who died in Iraq, from Dover Air Force

Base to the young man's funeral in Wyoming. It is a beautiful story of

love, of pain, and of concern. I hope that Members of Congress as well

as the American people will get a chance to see the movie called

``Taking Chance.'' It's a true story. In that story about Taking Chance

home, it is a beautiful understanding of the pain and the love of those

at Dover Air Force Base who receive the remains from Afghanistan and

who take care of those remains. It is absolutely heart-wrenching to see

the love that these people have for those who have given their lives

for this country.

Mr. Speaker, after seeing this movie and then reading in the papers

that Iraq is falling apart, I would like to say to Mr. Rumsfeld and to

the previous administration: thank you for getting us into this

unnecessary war. Mr. Rumsfeld, you were wrong. You said that Iraqi oil

was going to pay for the war. No. The Chinese are benefiting.

This is another article in The New York Times in which it says that

China is the biggest winner. According to this article, the Chinese buy

almost half of the oil produced in Iraq.

Again, the previous administration got us into an unnecessary war. In

fact, a Defense Department official from the Bush administration said:

Even worse, we are borrowing this Chinese money to fund this corrupt

leader.

I hope that Congress will wake up. Next week, we will be debating the

armed services bill. I am on that committee. I have worked across the

aisle with my friends on the Democratic side to cut the funding for

Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have this photograph of a flag-draped

coffin. It could have been PFC Chance Phelps' coffin--it's not, but it

could have been--or it could have been the coffin of 4,400 other

servicemen and women who died in Iraq.

God, please continue to bless our men and women in uniform. God,

continue to bless America; and please, God, let us never forget the

sacrifices made by so many in these wars that are unnecessary and in

these wars that are necessary.