Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution and in

defense of a military hero of this Nation, our distinguished colleague,

the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha).

In a few moments I will ask unanimous consent to yield to the

gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha) the balance of the time on the

Democratic side, but I would like to put this debate in its proper

framework.

This is not the finest moment of the House of Representatives. We

have all sat through interminable debates on inconsequential issues,

but tonight we are talking about war and peace.

Fifteen years ago when we debated the first gulf war, every single

Member of this body got 5 minutes to present his views. This time we

are getting less than 8 seconds. What we are debating is not a serious

proposal, but a cheap political ploy beneath the dignity of this body.

The subject of the war in Iraq deserves serious and thoughtful

discussion and debate, and we are surely not having it tonight. There

is no Member of this House for whom I have more respect and affection

than the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the epitome of patriotism, not of

the oratorical type, but patriotism on the field of battle.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield to the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha) the balance of the time for him to control.