Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution. I

am proud to be a Vietnam veteran. I am proud to have spent almost 4

years in that country with the U.S. Army and the Central Intelligence

Agency, but I was not proud when Members of Congress, Members of this

body, criticized us in the course of that war publicly back here at

home. Their critical comments were demoralizing and undercut our

efforts. It encouraged our enemy, and it placed us at risk.

At some point in the 1970s, our national will broke down, we cut and

ran. We left our friends behind, my colleagues, my counterparts. And we

abandoned Southeast Asia to unprecedented slaughter and destruction.

Now 30 years later I find myself on this same floor talking about the

``immediate redeployment'' of our troops from a foreign battlefield

where they are fully engaged in a difficult and dangerous mission.

More than anyone else, this Vietnam veteran wants to see our troops

come home safely, successfully and soon. But now is not the time for

immediate withdrawal. Now is the time to support our troops and the

values they fight for.