Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for Mr. Murtha and Mr.

Hunter. And I am uncomfortable when Mr. Murtha talks about one

political party rallying round something. I do not want Republicans or

Democrats rallying around anything. You moved me when I was in my

office and you talked about going to Arlington. All of us have been

there; all of us have been to our Nation's cemeteries and seen the

white crosses and Stars of David.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Brown) and I were privileged

to represent our country this past May, and I am sure Mr. Murtha has

been there, standing on the cliffs of Normandy at Omaha. We gave the

Memorial Day address representing our Nation. I was there with my 20-

year-old son, and I could feel the envy of souls because I thought

about what their last thoughts may have been. And then as I strained

among these thousands of graves, if I permitted the eyes of my mind to

have a vision I could actually see, if I permitted the ears of my heart

to listen, I could hear.

And what did they say? They said, What we did on this day was worthy.

You see, they came to a continent to free it from tyranny on that day.

They came to a land where they had never been to fight for a people

they had never met. Does that not yet sound familiar?

And we speak of the sacrifice of what we refer to as the greatest

generation. How are we now yet defining ourselves when our men and

women are faced with something very similar.

We should be here tonight talking of our strategy of victory, defined

by our perseverance to an enduring freedom throughout the world. To

discuss withdrawal from Iraq tonight before our mission is complete is

the wrong strategy at the wrong time. Why? Because freedom is on the

move.

We, the people of the United States, we are a great Nation with a

great vision. We seek to preserve the blessings of liberty for our

citizens and for all those around the world who recognize the God-given

right of freedom.

Today our Nation is truly engaged in an epic struggle for freedom in

Iraq. Whether you believe how we got there is true, the struggle among

us is evident here tonight. What we do not want is what Mr. Hyde

referred to as our enemies to take advantage of our weaknesses. The

painful lessons, whether it was Vietnam or Lebanon or Somalia, North

Korea, Iran, al Qaeda, they watch, and it is part of what they want to

do to envelope our weakness.

You see, Clausewitz had it right. He said, The use of our military

force is the instrumentality of a political decision. We then expect

our military to act on the field of battle with great valor, courage

and commitment. You see, they are an extension of us. And in return,

our soldiers ask what of us? Loyalty. And they expect us to have the

very same resolve that we expect of them; that in battle, they look at

us and say, when it gets hard, when it gets tough, can you hang with

us, Congress? That is a very pertinent question for a soldier to ask of

us.

So I respect Mr. Murtha, but this is the wrong time for your

resolution, sir.