Mr. Speaker, I would point out first that the

childish shouting from many who have not served dishonor those who

serve on the front lines with quiet resolve at this time while we have

a necessary debate on this war.

I am here to represent some folks who cannot speak because they are

serving on the front lines right now. I received a phone call in the

well of the

House this evening from one of the commanders of America's premier

counterterrorism organization. He shared with me his great dismay at

much of the rhetoric that had emanated from this body today, making

them the pawns in a political battle over what they clearly see as they

are making success on the front lines. Please, your shouting and your

rhetoric sends echoes to our enemies as well as to our soldiers and our

friends.

It is honest to have a debate, my friends, but when I am asked on the

floor of this house, why are you doing to us what was done to so many

veterans here by Members of this body during Vietnam, when I am told

repeatedly of their successes, my friends who I served with over nearly

30 years ago and who are serving now on the front lines commanding the

units, leading the units and who are serving as junior enlisted

soldiers, hundreds of soldiers whose opinions fly in the face of the

rhetoric shared tonight.