Mr. Speaker, today's House debate on Iraq was sharply

partisan and not what our soldiers deserve. Our future course in Iraq

must be determined thoughtfully and strategically. The partisan

shouting match that broke out was unnecessarily launched by House

leaders who rushed to the floor a flawed resolution which was more of a

political stunt than a serious reflection of views in the Congress.

Our brave soldiers have put their lives on the line in serving in

Iraq. Each of them deserves so much more from Congress by way of

effective leadership than the shrill squabbling that broke out on the

House floor today. We need to come together on an exit strategy for our

soldiers based upon the transition of security to the Iraqis themselves

in order to give the new democratic government of the people of Iraq a

fair chance of success.

It is my hope the partisan screamers holding forth on the House floor

today would lower their voices, travel to the area, learn as much as

possible and then participate constructively in the difficult decisions

we face on Iraq.