Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this

Republican stunt and their efforts to embarrass a decorated Vietnam War

Veteran.

Yesterday, Congressman John Murtha, a Democrat with impeccable

military credentials and an honored military record, suggested that

U.S. troops leave Iraq at the earliest practicable date. Today, I

cosponsored that resolution. His knowledgeable and respected voice

joins the loud and clear pleas of the Out of Iraq Caucus--of which I am

a proud member. His voice joins former generals, intelligence officers,

Presidents, and mothers and fathers across America who know that we are

mired in a war that cannot be won and to truly honor our troops, we

need to bring them home.

Unfortunately, tonight the Republican leadership refused to bring Mr.

Murtha's resolution to a vote. I can only presume because Mr. Murtha's

resolution made too much sense. Instead, the Republican leadership is

offering a sham-resolution in an attempt to embarrass and insult a

member of Congress who has served his country nobly in uniform--

something most of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle know

nothing about.

Perhaps the Republican Leadership's time would be better spent in an

effort to finish the business of this country instead of wasting hours

attempting to besmirch the record of a decorated Vietnam War Veteran

and demagogue an issue that demands honest consideration.