Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, apparently we are going to start today on debate of a

resolution, the meat of which simply indicates, Resolved by the House

of Representatives that Congress and the American people will continue

to support and protect the members of the United States Armed Forces

who are serving or who have served bravely and honorably in Iraq; and

Congress disapproves of the decision of President George W. Bush

announced on January

10, 2007 to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat

troops to Iraq.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the record has been clear. The new commander for

Iraq, General Petraeus, has had hearings and has now been confirmed

unanimously by the Senate. The outgoing commander of Iraq, General

Casey, has had hearings and has now been confirmed as the new chief of

the United States Army unanimously. Both commanders and their

subordinate commanders have indicated that these additional troops are

needed.

We hear talk that we are supporting our troops, but basically the

message to the troops is, Yes, with our lips we say we support you but

with all of our actions we say, We don't believe a word you say. We

don't think you know what you're talking about. We don't want to give

you what you say is necessary to protect yourselves and to win the day

in Iraq.

There are no proposed solutions in the resolution that we will debate

this week, no proposed fixes, nothing proposed to help anybody. It just

says, We disapprove, we don't agree with the generals, the commanders,

those who are in the theater, those that have come from the theater who

are on active duty.

Now, you will always have some retired generals and commanders who

are not happy that they are retired and who will take their pot shots,

but here again there are no new solutions, no new efforts in Iraq. The

Democratic Party does not propose to change anything. So this

resolution, I guess, could be more properly categorized as stay the

course, stiffen the enemy, start our collapse, because when you say to

the world and to all of our enemies, We don't believe our commanders,

we don't believe they know what they're talking about, we don't believe

they know what they need, we're not going to have any new solutions,

what you are doing to the enemy, you are stiffening their resolve.

Materials that have been found in Iraq have indicated just that, that

the Americans don't have the stomach, they ran from Vietnam, they

didn't keep their commitments to the people of South Vietnam. Even

after the Paris Accord, they did not keep their commitment. The new

larger Democratic Congress in 1975 even cut off all the funds and

millions of people in Southeast Asia lost their lives. In 1979 while I

was stationed at Fort Benning, we were attacked. It was an act of war.

And we did nothing. We begged to have our hostages returned. We did

nothing. And those are the kind of things that the enemy goes back to

in saying, we don't have the stomach to do this. In 1983 when our

barracks was bombed in Beirut, we withdrew. In 1993 when the World

Trade Center was attacked, we did virtually nothing on the

international front. Then throughout the nineties, the attack of the

USS Cole, Mozambique, Somalia, Africa, time and again, time and again

we showed we didn't have the resolve. This must be the time we stand

firm, tell our enemy, We will defeat you, we have nothing but

solutions. This resolution, the stay the course, stiffen the enemy,

start our collapse resolution, is not the way to go. I hope our fellow

Members of this House will do the right thing. We will try something

new. We will try to help the troops. We will give them what they ask.

The Democratic stay the course, stiffen the enemy and start our

collapse resolution is not a solution.