Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's brave men

and women currently serving in the name of freedom and to oppose this

resolution of retreat.

As Abraham Lincoln said famously in his second inaugural address:

As Americans we are reluctant warriors, but throughout our

rich history, whenever our troops have been in

harm's way America has supported the men and women in uniform and made

certain our troops have the necessary resources to accomplish their

mission.

Without a doubt, mistakes have been made, and these mistakes are

important to acknowledge, but we must go forward with a new strategy in

Iraq based on quantifiable goals and measurable results. We must not

retreat. At this critical time, the American people long for true

leadership and resolve.

I urge my colleagues to put aside political posturing and

partisanship and ensure our troops have the resources and support

needed to complete this mission. Victory is the only option.