Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be an American. I

am so proud that we have first amendment freedoms and this House of

Representatives has decided to step up and debate the issue of Iraq. I

am not ashamed that I want my troops to come home. I am not ashamed to

say that the babies that have died in Iraq that come from Cleveland and

Chicago, Illinois need to come home and get out of harm's way. I am not

unpatriotic; I am as patriotic as the rest. I stand here to say to

America today that the Democrats in this House of Representatives and

the Democrats in the Senate want a debate.

Fortunately, we have a strong leader in the House and we are

debating. Somehow, the Senate cannot seem to get off the stoop to give

us an opportunity to debate the issue of Iraq. I am proud to be an

American. I am proud to have troops who have stood up for us, have

given their lives. It is time for us to stand up for them.

Let's remember them. Let them not be numbers. Let them and their

families know that we care about them.