Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr.

Skelton) for the time.

This is a very difficult time for me because I find it difficult to

rise in opposition of this resolution, and the reason I do it is

because there just does not seem to be enough outrage involved in what

is being said.

We should not have to apologize for brave men and women. We should

not have to apologize for what the executive branch or the Congress has

or has not done. We should not be put in this position.

Several months ago, I called for the resignation of the Secretary of

Defense because I thought, as a major architect of this war, that he

was fighting this war with other people's children, and when he said

that he did not know whether or not we were winning or losing the war,

when he said that he did not know whether we were creating more

terrorists than we were killing, when he said we did not have any plan

to end the war, that it was a slog, I thought, as a former combat

veteran, is this the leadership that we can expect from the Secretary

of Defense? I thought that America and the military deserve better than

that and he should resign.

Now the information that we receive is that a climate has been

created where a handful of people have committed these atrocities

against human kind in an atmosphere where all of the people that are in

Iraq have been demonized where it appears to American people and

certainly to our military that the people in Iraq are responsible for

9/11 and causing us pain, that the Secretary of Defense did have

information months ago about these atrocities; and that he kept it from

the President, he kept it from the Congress and he kept it from the

American people. I think that this rises to the point that it is a high

crime and misdemeanor if he disappointed the President, kept

information from the Congress and kept this information from the

American people.

I think America and the world wants us to show the outrage, not by

rhetoric, but by taking action, and if the President does not fire the

Secretary, if he does not resign, I think it is the responsibility of

this Congress to file articles of impeachment and force him to leave

office. Then the whole world would know, not just our military, not

just Americans but the whole world what we stand for.

If people can say ``mission completed'' when it looks like there is

victory and we see atrocities like this and it happens on someone's

watch, if they do not have the dignity to say I am sorry and move on,

then we have the responsibility under our Constitution to remove these

people from office.

He kept the information away from this Congress. We have the

responsibility of oversight. I am preparing articles of impeachment

today.