Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member, the

gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Skelton) and the chairman, the gentleman

from California (Mr. Hunter) for bringing this resolution to the floor.

When I spoke to the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, I

asked him what we should do about this incident. There was a lot of

discussion about a lot of things, but we were talking about doing this

resolution. I told him at the time that we wanted to make sure that

this was bipartisan, and he expressed himself that we needed to have a

resolution that condemned the actions at Abu Ghraib prison but, at the

same time, we needed to talk about our troops. That is what this

resolution does.

When others tried to come in and impose politics into the resolution,

it was rejected.

This resolution is exactly written the way it should have been

written, and I congratulate the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Skelton)

and the gentleman from California (Mr. Hunter) for doing it the right

way.

The alleged abuses inside Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq are an outrage.

They are crimes by any definition of any terms in any culture, and

their perpetrators must be dealt with swiftly and fully. Our government

has a responsibility to find out exactly what happened, what went

wrong, and make sure it never happens again. But while we meet that

responsibility, we cannot allow these shameful crimes to undermine or

distract the American people or ourselves from the task, the clear

moral imperative at hand.

Operation Iraqi Freedom, whatever difficulty we have faced since the

end of major combat, has been an absolute good for the cause of human

freedom in the world. The men and women serving the United States in

Iraq won the swiftest and most humane military campaign in history, and

they turned from that victory in major combat to a protracted,

difficult, and bloody guerilla war against terrorist insurgents that

still takes American lives every week.

We must, I say to my colleagues, we must not forget that while we

have this chance to speak with one voice condemning what has happened

in the Iraqi prisons, the war still rages. Attempts to politicize the

abuse revelations will rightly be seen by our enemies as opportunities

to recruit, to propagandize, and to incite.

The world must know that the abuses we have seen in recent days do

not reflect the views, policies, or fabric of this Nation.

Our men and women in uniform are fighting today. Indeed, American

blood is flowing in Iraq as we speak, and it is, therefore, incumbent

on this body to offer our support for our troops and their mission all

the more strongly today.

Our troops are changing the world and building a future for the

people of Iraq, sacrificing more than most of us can know for the

survival and success of liberty. They are the finest ambassadors,

wherever they go everywhere in the world. They are the only thing that

separates us from another 9-11. And in their time in Iraq, our

servicemen and women have helped to rebuild schools, hospitals, food

security systems, and infrastructure. They are an Army of charity. They

are laying down their lives and their futures so that others might have

themselves the freedom that we all take for granted.

``Greater love hath no man than this, Mr. Speaker.'' Our heroes must

know that even in these troubling times, that love is returned.