Mr. Speaker, sadly, we are moving toward

almost 4,000 dead in Iraq. I don't believe there are enough times that

we can recount for the American people how many have already died;

25,000 are injured.

I am grateful to the Democratic leadership for providing enhanced

funding for the veterans hospitals and the Veterans Affairs Department

to break the backlog of those veterans' wait for services and to help

those in outpatient centers who need care.

But the real issue is when is the Iraqi Government going to stand up?

Just this past weekend, bombing occurred in Afghanistan where we need

to turn our attention, but we understand that there is a possibility

that the Iraqi Parliament will end its work and go off on a vacation

for July and August while our soldiers are dying.

It is time now for this administration to understand the misdirection

of this mission, to cause the Iraqi Government to stand up so that we

can stand down. How many more lives, how many more families for these

brave and wonderful men and women on the front lines of Iraq? They are

our heroes, they are the patriots. We salute them.

It is time now for the administration to stand up for them and make

the Iraqi Government stand up and take care of the Iraqi people.