Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with my

colleague from Texas. We must really approach violence, wherever it is,

and I thank him for his words.

Mr. Speaker, so many of us as Members have confronted families who

have lost loved ones on the battlefields of Iraq. We realize that not

one of those fallen soldiers would in any way step away from their

duty. So today I rise to thank them.

But because of their commitment to their Nation, I believe as policy

makers we have a commitment to them, and it is imperative that this

body and the other body not engage in nonbinding resolutions, when the

American people have asked us to bring our troops home, when the

President of the United States has not begun to consider alternatives

such as political diplomacy, when there is no recognition that the

Congress is an equal branch of government and can in fact cease the

funding.

We must have a new direction. We must have a safe and secure Iraq. We

can work for both, but we must have the respect and mutuality of the

three branches of government.