Mr. Speaker, soon courts-martial of the three Navy SEALS

accused of beating a suspected terrorist will begin. These trials and

the outcomes are being followed closely by our servicemembers. There is

broad concern that political correctness may be impacting the decision

to accuse servicemembers of crimes stemming from the treatment of

terrorists and accused terrorists. This is not acceptable. Our soldiers

must be able to carry out their missions without considering the

sensitivities of the ACLU.

There is another group that is also following these courts-martial,

the terrorists. In fact, the al Qaeda handbook specifically directs any

operative who is detained to immediately claim he is tortured and

mistreated. We cannot stand by and allow our warfighters to be

manipulated by the enemy.

When these charges are brought, many of our servicemembers elect to

have civilian defense counsel, based on their level of experience and

expertise, at their own expense. Even when acquitted or the charges are

dropped, these servicemembers are left with significant debt. This is

also unacceptable.

The people who so willingly defend this country deserve the very best

defense and should be acquitted or the charges dropped. It is the

responsibility of our government to pay these costs. Today I am

introducing a resolution to address this inequity. I will continue to

fight for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, and I urge all

Members of Congress to do the same.