Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago we heard almost

all the members of the Out of Iraq Caucus ask for a debate on the war,

and one of the comments that was made throughout that series of

unanimous consent requests was a statement affirming that they honor

and support our troops, as do I believe all Members of this body seek

to do that.

However, the deeper question I would like to raise in this, if we

honor and support our troops, I would suggest to this body that we also

listen to our troops and what they are saying on the ground, especially

those who have paid a tremendous price.

I had the great honor and privilege yesterday to visit with several

soldiers from Kentucky, one of whom was from my district, in Walter

Reed Hospital. They included Specialist Jeremy Lowe, Sergeant Bill

Winburn, and Sergeant Carlos Farler.

All of them emphasized strong belief in the mission. All of them

shared very clearly and articulated the successes, most unreported by

the national media, that they are seeing on the ground. They expressed

a tremendous amount of confidence in what the Iraqi people are doing.

I think it is important that we stand with the troops in this

resolution, that we stand with our country, that we stand with the

Iraqi people, and that as we debate the war, and I believe there is an

important need for debate, for discussion on policy, on the future,

that one thing that we need to keep clear is that the messages that are

sent communicate to several audiences: first and foremost to our troops

in the field; second, to the Iraqi people; third, to our enemies, who

will use our words against us; and, finally, to the entire world who is

watching.

We must keep our promises, we must keep our commitment to our troops

and carry on this mission that they believe in, where they see success,

until it is completed.