Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished

gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Obey) for yielding.

And, Mr. Murtha, you were right, and the leadership.

I rise here today because I stand next to those who have lost their

lives, so many of them around the country, but so many in Houston,

Texas.

I said I would travel with this board from Houston to Washington, and

I said that I would do what was right to make their sacrifice one that

we continue to honor. We mourn them. Their families mourn them.

This is the right direction because the military goes to battle, but

we go to war, and the Constitution does say that this Congress can

declare war. It was not declared. And, frankly, it is not an

interference. The generals are working, but we are redirecting policy.

In fact, we are providing for unit readiness, length of deployment,

time between deployments, money for Afghanistan, money for prosthetics,

money for brain injury. We are providing for a new life for these

soldiers when they return home. And like the former member of the

Intelligence Committee says, this bill is right. I quarreled with it. I

fought with it. But I believe it is the right thing, though many of us

want a different direction.

Vote for this supplemental.