Mr. Speaker, some say the U.S. will not win in Iraq, but

in the American political debate, we can do better than that.

Last week at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, the President of the

United States did just that. President Bush delivered a forceful and

effective defense of our strategy and the stakes facing our Nation in

Iraq.

Along with thousands of other midshipmen, I had the privilege of

joining the President that day, and I have to tell you, from inside the

arena, it appeared that the President was both at ease and determined.

He pounded the facts about enemy, their aims and our progress in Iraq

into the American debate.

From the outset, the President set the tone defining the first war of

the 21st Century with the declaration that the enemy must be defeated.

He cited their war against humanity, while he released a recently

declassified national strategy for victory, which Americans can read at

WhiteHouse.gov.

For me, the central message came when the President said, ``We will

stay as long as necessary to complete the mission.'' This clarion call

and the continued determination of the American people was timely and

meaningful, and an important challenge to a Nation that believes in

freedom and has always demonstrated throughout our history that when

the mission is just and the mission is clear, Americans complete the

mission.