Mr. Speaker, we are saluting our veterans from World

War II today. Last week, I had the opportunity to spend time with

members of the 278th Regimental Combat Team of the Tennessee National

Guard, and the 115th Field Artillery Regiment from the Tennessee Army

National Guard.

Tennessee was welcoming them home after a year of service in Iraq and

around the world. They have done great work. We are proud of them. And

I believe their sacrifice is what does keep this Nation free.

Mr. Speaker, it was with sadness and a little bit of disbelief that I

heard yesterday of Democratic Party leader Howard Dean's comments that

we cannot win in Iraq, and that we are in the same situation as

Vietnam.

The pessimism and historical ignorance contained in those statements

is simply staggering, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if this is simply

wishful thinking by a Democratic leader looking for an angle to slam

the White House, or whether Mr. Dean actually believes it. Both options

are frightening. I have been in Iraq. I have seen the progress. It is

undeniable. It is good for America. It is good for the freedom-loving

people in this world. Thank you to the men and women in uniform for

their sacrifice.