Mr. Speaker, this morning it is with a sense of profound

sadness that I address the House of Representatives, and usually it is

not so. I cherish the time that I have been able to spend here

representing my District.

Mr. Speaker, my son is a member of the Air National Guard of the

136th Wing out of the old Carswell Air Force Base in Dallas. He is a

staff sergeant, but I picked up the paper this morning like so many of

my friends, and we see that the leaders on the other side have

proclaimed the war unwinnable, and I think of all of the brave young

men and women that I saw when I was in Iraq two times in the past year,

and I cannot help but feel a profound sense of sadness that they feel

that their leaders have abandoned them.

Now, we are all outraged and saddened by the photos of mistreatment

of the Iraqi prisoners we have seen on our television screens. The

abusers will be punished. The commanding officers will likely have

their careers in ruins, but I just want to caution the leaders on the

other side, indeed the candidates who are running for the highest

office in this land, that this response is reminiscent of the response

that a candidate named Kerry, 30 years ago had before the Senate

committee where he condemned all of our troops in Vietnam.

This is not the case of our brave men and women over in Iraq today.