Madam Speaker, 3 years ago we heard the drums of war

beating in this House Chamber, and Congress voted to take this Nation

to war against Iraq.

We later learned that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction, was

not trying to get uranium from Niger, had no intention nor capability

of attacking the United States. Yet we went to war and war against Iraq

remains.

We went to war without any thought of how we would get out of that

war. We went to war with a big buildup; but when it came to talking

about an exit from Iraq, there was very little or no discussion except

for the one thing, Democrats and Republicans alike to come together, in

support of House Joint Resolution 55, a resolution that requires the

administration to produce, by the end of the year, an exit strategy and

to begin the execution of that strategy by October 1 of 2006.

We owe it to those who serve. We owe it to the troops who gave their

lives. We owe it to their parents and to their families, to have an

exit strategy so that we can let the world community take the burden of

the years ahead in Iraq.