Mr. Speaker, since the Iraqi War started, nine soldiers

have died in my district, all under the age of 30, and I attended some

of their funerals.

As of to date, 1,051 servicemen and women have been killed in Iraq,

and more than 7,500 have been injured.

Our servicemen and women are serving this Nation with honor and

demonstrating great courage beyond our belief. Yet the actions of our

President are not helping to ensure their safety and security. While

their job is to fight, ours is to protect them.

The violence is not stopping. The streets are not safer. Our soldiers

and Iraqi citizens continue to be at risk and are dying.

The U.S. had a plan to topple Baghdad, but it did not have a plan to

adequately win and secure the peace. We need to secure the Nation. We

need to equip it with the tools to protect and defend itself. And we

need to establish peace.

What we need is new direction in Iraq. We need strong leadership and

accountability, and we need to make sure that whatever this government

provides in terms of funding is actually made available so that all our

military on the ground has sufficient equipment and supplies that are

needed.