Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong

support of Chairman Skelton's bill to bring American forces home from

Iraq and to begin to end this tragic war, a war borne of lies,

ignorance and arrogance. The cost of this war has been high to our

country, to our economy but, most importantly, to our men and women in

uniform, for they have taken all of the sacrifice for our President's

decision to take this country to war in Iraq.

Our military responded honorably to the President's decision, but he

failed to honor their sense of duty and their courage with a plan that

was designed to succeed. His failed policy has cost their families,

their communities, and most tragically, it has cost them their limbs

and their lives.

The war in Iraq cannot be won, and it cannot be lost. It can only be

brought to an end. The President continues to display both sheer

arrogance and tragic ignorance as he refuses to change policy. Over and

over again, it says the same thing, to stay the same course, to give

them more time and that success is just around the corner.

The American people realize that staying the course in Iraq was not a

plan, and it is not going to work. I have known, as many of my

Democratic colleagues have, that staying the course is not acceptable.

We honor our troops when we have the courage to bring them home and end

this war.