Mr. Speaker, I rise today in unwavering support of our

troops. I support our troops who are stationed around the globe and,

particularly, those stationed in harm's way in places like Iraq and

Afghanistan. That is why I wholeheartedly support H. Con. Res. 63 which

disapproves of the President's decision to deploy more than 20,000 additional

combat troops to Iraq, because support of our troops means I must vote

to move them out of harm's way.

This 110th Congress debate marks the beginning of the end of the U.S.

invasion and occupation of Iraq and a realignment of our strategy

utilizing America's might against the war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, we now know that nothing said in justification of this

war was fact. It was all fiction created by this administration to

justify the unjustifiable.

Our military service men and women are doing their duty. They have

accomplished their mission. They have brought Saddam Hussein to

justice. Remember, ``Mission Accomplished.''

This administration has distracted us from the real war on terror,

the war with al Qaeda. When are we going to bring Osama bin Laden to

justice?

In Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command General Tommy Franks, the war's

operational commander, misjudged the interest of our Afghan allies. He

ran the war from Tampa, with no commander on the ground above the rank

of Lieutenant Colonel. The first Americans did not arrive until 3 days

into the fighting.

It is noted that Osama bin Laden slipped through the cordon

ostensibly placed around Tora Bora as U.S. aircraft began bombing on

November 30, 2002. More precisely, bin Laden was in Tora Bora on

November 26, 2002, spoke to his fighters about the fight being a holy

war, then, as quickly as he had come, bin Laden vanished in the pine

forest with four of his loyalists walking in the direction of Pakistan.

Bin Laden escaped somewhere between November 28 and November 30,

2002, in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, Department of Defense Secretary Paul

Wolfowitz said, ``He,'' meaning Osama bin Laden, ``doesn't have a lot

of good options.'' Obviously, that was false.

Further, it was reported that the administration pays bin Laden no

attention, and that is evidenced by the fact that official reports no

longer identify Osama bin Laden as a threat. The administration

anticipated that they would have bin Laden erased by September 11,

2002. They failed at that mission.

Again, the failure of this administration to get the job done, to

secure our homeland, and to get the man who masterminded the attacks

upon us and continues to recruit and train al Qaeda agents is parallel

to the failures of the mission in Iraq. The administration did not plan

to fail; they failed to plan.

I support the men and women who put their lives on the line for our

liberty. I am indebted to them, the sacrifices that they have made, and

that is why I support this resolution. We must redeploy and make

preparations to leave Iraq today.

As the representative of the 11th District from New York, I and my

constituents deeply resent the lies and deceptions thrust upon us to

justify this war by creating a distraction away from homeland security

we all require as an inalienable right. The fire that I witnessed that

refused to die was stamped out by the resilience of New Yorkers,

Americans who believe in our democracy and the ultimate victory of good

over evil.

The question I have and the question of the people from New York and

the rest of America wants answered is: When will Osama bin Laden be

brought to justice?

Thanks to the failed policies of this administration, Iraq is now in

the midst of a civil war. Due to the lies and deceptions, the civil war

in Iraq is now raging. We must redeploy our troops now. Thus far, there

are 135,544 troops deployed in Iraq today.