Madam Speaker, I am grateful to Chairman

Skelton and Chairman Lantos for giving me the opportunity and the

privilege to be part of this resolution, first of all, to thank our men

and women in uniform for their service and, secondly, to question

whether the sending of 20,000-plus troops to be policemen in Baghdad is

the right thing or the wrong thing to do.

I think this has been a great debate, no matter which side of the

aisle you have been on or which position you have had.

Madam Speaker, I want to say again, as I did 2 days ago, I know we

cannot live in the past, but I will tell you, my heart has ached ever

since I went to a Marine's funeral in April of 2003.

Michael Bitz died a sergeant, a sergeant who left a wife and three

children, twins that were born 2 weeks after he was deployed. He never

saw them. At the funeral, the wife read the last letter word for word.

She cried, and I cried too, by God.

Then I started questioning. The intelligence given to the Congress

and the American people, was it verified? Was it true? Then I started

speaking out and asking for those who were on the inside, and I am

going to read this to you today very quickly.

General Gregory Newbold, Marine general, and as far as I am

concerned, he is a hero because he gave up a third star because he

could not sit there and see the manipulation of the intelligence to

send our troops to Iraq, and I quote very quickly from an article that

he wrote for Time magazine, April 9, 2006.

``Two senior military officers are known to have challenged Defense

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on the planning of the Iraq War. Army General

Eric Shinseki publicly dissented and found himself marginalized. Marine

Lieutenant Greg Newbold, the Pentagon's top operations officer, voiced

his objections internally and then retired, in part out of opposition

to the war.''

I further read from his writing to Time magazine. ``From 2000 until

October 2002, I was a Marine Corps lieutenant general and director of

operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. After 9/11, I was a witness

and therefore a party to the actions that led us to the invasion of

Iraq, an unnecessary war. Inside the military family, I made no secret

of my view that the zealots' rationale for war made no sense. And I

think I was outspoken enough to make those senior to me uncomfortable.

But I now regret that I did not more openly challenge those who were

determined to invade a country whose actions were peripheral to the

real threat, al Qaeda. I

retired from the military 4 months before the invasion, in part because

of my opposition to those who had used 9/11's tragedy to hijack our

security policy.''

He further stated, ``To be sure, the Bush administration and senior

military officials are not alone in their culpability. Members of

Congress, from both parties, defaulted in fulfilling their

constitutional responsibility for oversight.''

These are not my words. They are the words of two-star Marine General

Gregory Newbold who gave up the third star because he could not stay

and see what was happening to our military and to this country.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be part of this resolution. Debate has

never hurt anyone. In fact, at the Armed Services meeting 2 weeks ago,

a question was asked, either by my side or your side, Would this

demoralize the troops? And General Pace and Secretary of Defense Gates

said, no, it will not; they are smart, they understand. This is what

freedom is all about is debate, disagreement, and discussion.

Madam Speaker, our troops have done a magnificent job, and they

cannot afford to continue to be policemen in a civil war. It is not

fair and makes no sense at all.

Seventy percent of the American people are opposed to this surge, and

Madam Speaker, I want to read Retired Army Lieutenant General J.

Garner, the first U.S. official in charge of postwar Baghdad. Madam

Speaker, he said, ``I don't know that the Iraqi Government has ever

demonstrated ability to lead the country, and we shouldn't be

surprised. You'll never find, in my lifetime, one man that all the

Iraqis will coalesce around. Iraqis are too divided among sectarian,

ethnic, and tribal loyalties, and their loyalties are regional, not

national.''

Let's pass this resolution, and God bless our men and women in

uniform.