Mr. Speaker, we rise today to discuss this resolution that

is in two parts before us. The first part says that we support our

troops. The second part says that we are not going to send them

reinforcements. This seems to be kind of a curious proposition, almost

a nonsensical proposition. How do you say you support and then say, but

we don't want to send them any reinforcing troops? Certainly we say

that we want to give them body armor, we want to give them up-armored

Humvees, we want to send them tanks; but the most important thing that

you need sometimes as troops is some other troops to support you. So we

are saying, oh, we want support, but we don't want to support you.

Picture Davy Crockett at the Alamo. He has his back to the wall.

Santa Ana has got thousands of troops. So he gets his BlackBerry out.

He checks with Congress. Congress says, Hey, Davy, we really support

you but we're not going to send you any troops. That doesn't make a

whole lot of sense to me.

Now, as I said, this resolution has two parts. It says, We support

you but we're not really going to send any troops over.

The third part is what concerns me the most. As Congressmen, we have

the responsibility to listen, to pay attention. If somebody has a

better idea, that is just fine. Send your better idea forward. We are

ready to be taught or to learn. If there is a better way to approach

Iraq and the situation there, good. But this proposal has no positive

suggestion whatsoever. It just says we support and we don't support.

All that does is to encourage our enemies. And without any positive

recommendation, this can only be viewed as something which strengthens

our opponents' hands. They say, Goody, we've got the Americans all

confused. They're saying support and don't support at the same time,

with no positive recommendations whatsoever.

Now, I have heard people say that this is a civil war. It is not

really a civil war yet. If we pull all the troops out immediately, it

will turn into a civil war, no doubt about that. But what we do have

is, we do know this, that the terrorists have been involved in setting

one group of people against another. They blow up a holy place of the

Shias and the Shias start fighting the Sunnis. And so, yes, they have

sparked a whole lot of unrest, particularly in Baghdad. It is not a

civil war yet. But do we think that the terrorists aren't going to do

the same thing in other countries where you have the one leadership

with a majority of people in the other tribe.

So I don't think it is much of an escape to say, oh, well, this is a

civil war. What it is, it is a war against terrorists. Regardless of

how you want to speculate what might happen if we leave all of a

sudden, at least I would respect the Democrats more if you

would just simply say, we need to cut and run, or we need to stay where

we are. But don't just leave a blank piece of paper and say we support

and don't support. It doesn't make any sense. All it does is help the

enemy.

It seems to me that we need to as Americans one more time as we have

in the past take a good, serious gut check. I have a chance to speak to

American audiences everywhere and lots of little kids and I always ask

the same question. I ask the question, If you were to take America that

you love and condense it down as to what do you really believe about

this country, what is the heart and core of America? The answer that I

almost always get is the word ``freedom.''

But freedom needs a little bit more definition. The Tiananmen Square

Chinese students wanted freedom and they greased the tank treads with

their bodies. But they didn't get freedom. Just because you want

freedom doesn't mean you can have it.

So what is the heart of what we believe as Americans? Well, I will

tell you. The first time we went to war we stated that and we had quite

an argument and discussion about it. And it was put in the Declaration

of Independence: We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men

are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that

among these is life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And the job

of government is to protect those basic, fundamental, God-given rights.

That is what they believed and they had to decide: Are we going to

fight the British or not? Those are the things that I taught to my

children.

This is a picture of the Marine Club with my 9-year-old son standing

here, saluting the flag as it is going up. We taught him that there are

some things in this world that are worth dying for and that one of

those things is the fact that God gives us basic inalienable rights.

That little Marine Club kid has grown up.

There he is in Fallujah in 2005. That is the cache of terrorist

weapons that they found in Fallujah. He has grown up. He understands

the risk to his life. He almost died in Fallujah. He believes, as I do,

that there are some things in this world that are worth defending. This

is not a war about a civil war. This is head to head with terrorists.

And is it surprising that we find ourselves fighting terrorists?

Terrorists believe, we blow up innocent people to make a political

statement. We believe that the right to life comes from God, that it is

an inalienable right. The terrorists terrorize people to compel you to

take your liberty away and we believe that liberty is a gift that comes

from God. We are going head to head with people that have always been

the enemies of America, and I am concerned that if we do not stand up

and show that we not only think that it is a nice idea in our

Declaration but it is a conviction that we will defend with our lives,

that we will be fighting the terrorists here.