Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for

yielding, and I thank him for his amazing service to our country.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. There have

been many good arguments made as to why this resolution is not in the

best interest of our military, not in the best interest of our country.

But I want to focus on one point, and that is just how real and how

serious the threat of terrorism is, because that is what this struggle

in Iraq is really about. And I am just going to read the list of

terrorist attacks against Americans, and we have heard this list

before, but I think it is important to refocus on this:

In 1979, 66 American hostages were taken in Iran. In 1983, 241

Marines were killed in Beirut. In 1988, 189 Americans were killed in

the PanAm bombing. In 1993 in the first World Trade Center bombing, we

lost six Americans. In 1996, 19 service members were killed in the

Khobar Towers bombing. In 2000, 17 American sailors lost their lives in

the USS Cole. And, of course, in 2001, that date we all remember, 9/11,

2,973 Americans lost their lives in the World Trade Center bombing, in

the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania.

When you think about the actions of these terrorists and how real and

dangerous they are, I am reminded of last summer when the Pope made a

statement in a speech about the radical element, small but radical

element, within the Islamic faith and the violence associated with that

element. And the reaction to the Pope's statement about violence among

this radical, but small, element, the reaction to his statement about

violence was violence. It was the destruction of churches, the

destruction of buildings. It was the taking of a life of an innocent

nun in Italy. That is what we are up against.

This Democratic resolution puts us on a path towards leaving Iraq

before victory is attained. It puts us on a path that will cut funds to

our brave men and women already in battle. It puts us on a path that is

wrong for America. And, most importantly, I think, it puts us on the

wrong path that will most assuredly embolden the very people who are

responsible for the terrorist acts I just listed.

If you remember, shortly after 9/11 the President gave a series of

speeches where he outlined a policy. He said if you are a country that

harbors terrorists, if you are a country that provides financing to

terrorists, if you are a country that trains terrorists, if you are a

country that is producing weapons that are going to harm vast numbers

of people, if you are doing those things, we are going to put you on

notice that we are not going to tolerate it.

And if you remember, it was amazing how quickly Moammar Kadafi in

Libya found the Lord and saw the light and how quickly he was willing

to say, I am going to work now with the United States. He understood

that when America says something, we mean it. If we just do what this

Democratic resolutions puts us on the path to do, I am afraid of the

message it sends to the Kadafis around the world and what that can mean

for the future safety of Americans and for our military.

This is a great country. We have been able to overcome whatever

challenges have presented themselves to us throughout our history. And

it is important that we have the same resolve as we approach this

challenge.

I am just a freshman Member of the Congress; and just a few weeks ago

it was put on display about what is so great about America, as we said,

in this Chamber during the State of the Union address. And during that

speech, the President pointed up to the gallery, and he highlighted

some great Americans, some American heroes. And the one that stuck out

in my mind, and many of you may remember this, was Wesley Autrey, the

subway man. And I thought it was so amazing to see what this man had

done and how that contrasts with the actions of the terrorists. Wesley

Autrey in the subway, willing to jump in front of a train on the track

to save a complete stranger simply because he was a fellow human being.

Contrast that action with the action of the terrorist who will jump

into that same subway, blow himself up to kill as many innocent people

as he can.

What is great about this country is the respect we place on human

life, the preciousness and sacredness that Americans have for human

life. That is the difference between us and the terrorists. That is why

it is so important to confront these folks wherever they choose to

fight us. Right now that place is Iraq. That is why this resolution is

bad.

Ladies and gentlemen, we should not pass a resolution in which

politicians second guess our military leaders in the field. We should

not pass a resolution that will embolden our enemy. And, most

importantly, we should not waver in our commitment to protect human

life and to confront the evil that is among us.

I urge a ``no'' vote on the resolution