Thank you, a true patriot, Mr. Johnson.

Madam Speaker, I rise today not only in support of the brave men and

women of the American Armed Forces, but also in support of the cause

for which they fight. They heroically give of themselves every day to

ensure the safety of our Nation and the freedom that we Americans

enjoy.

Like my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I want America's

troops home as soon as possible, but disengaging at this time would

invite the terrorists to follow us home. This resolution sends the

wrong message and will have grave consequences. It will demoralize our

troops and embolden our enemies. We are combating a global adversary

who sees an enemy in any Nation that supports the ideals of freedom. In

the interest of democracy, global safety and rural peace, victory in

Iraq is absolutely crucial.

While some seem happy to complain about the war, they have offered

nothing in the way of a solution to defeat the jihadists. It is fine to

disagree, but your opinion holds little weight if you fail to offer a

constructive alternative. Leadership takes strengths and courage to

succeed in the face of adversity, although mistakes may be made along

the way.

Many comments have been made by those who support this resolution,

but one that deserves a response is the oft-repeated phrase that this

is an impossible war to win. What a terrible attitude for Members of

the United States Congress to have.

What if George Washington had succumbed to the critics of his day who

said those things? What if Abraham Lincoln, FDR and President Truman

had taken that attitude? Where would we be now? We are here today

because people who came before us refused to listen to the naysayers

and the defeatists.

The true leaders of this Nation have always focused on the possible

and accomplished it. These people remind me of the attitude of the

Carter administration in dealing with Iran.

Let me quote a recent article by Dinesh D'Souza. `` . . . they are

willing to risk the country falling into the hands of Islamic radicals.

Little do the people waging 'the war against the war' know that in

exchange for a temporary political advantage, they are gravely

endangering America's security and well-being, ultimately even their

own.''

Let us band together as Americans, put aside political differences to

show that we understand the need to defend freedom for the long and

short terms. This is the decisive battle of our generation, and this is

a defining moment of our time.

We cannot afford to lose and should vote ``no'' on this resolution