Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am very supportive of

our troops around the globe and in particular those who are in harms

way in Iraq. I wholeheartedly support H. Con. Res. 63.

Mr. Speaker, in the President's January 29, 2002, State of the Union

address, in regards to protecting America, responding to the terrorist

threat and capturing Osama bin Laden, he said (meaning Iraq): . . .

This is a regime that agreed to international inspections--then kicked

out the inspectors. This is a regime that has something to hide from

the civilized world.

States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of

evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world. By seeking weapons of

mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger. They

provide these arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their

hatred. They could attack our allies or attempt to blackmail the United

States. In any of these cases, the price of indifference would be

Catastrophic.

Secretary Rice, after being named Secretary of State to succeed Colin

Powell, Secretary Rice warned six months before the invasion of Iraq

that Saddam Hussein could deploy a nuclear weapon, saying that the

administration did not ``want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud.''

according to the Washington Post. We now know that these assertions

were a fiction created by this administration to justify the

unjustifiable.

U.S. Central Command Gen. Tommy Franks, the war's operational

commander misjudged the interests of our Afghan allies. He ran the war

from Tampa with no commander on the scene above the rank of lieutenant

colonel. According to another Washington Post April 17, 2002, article;

The first Americans did not arrive until 3 days into the fighting.

As a representative from NY whose constituents resent the lies and

deception thrust upon us to justify this war and creating a distraction

away from the homeland security we all desire the question is: When

will Osama bin Laden be brought to justice.

The article continues by identifying that Osama bin Laden slipped

through the cordon ostensibly placed around Tora Bora as U.S. aircraft

began bombing on Nov. 30. More precisely, bin Laden was in Tora Bora on

Nov. 26, spoke to his fighters about ``holy war'' then, as quickly as

he had come, bin Laden vanished into the pine forests with four of his

loyalists walking in the direction of Pakistan. bin Laden escaped

according to the Christian Science Monitor, somewhere between Nov. 28

to Nov. 30 as confirmed by Arabs and Afghans in eastern Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I support our troops and that is why we must commence

the redeployment of our troops today. Thus far:

There are 135,544 troops in Iraq today. 3127 or 2.3 percent of U.S.

soldiers have been killed in service to our country.

Seventeen percent or 23,279 U.S. soldiers have been seriously wounded

in service to our country.

Twenty percent of the troops wounded have received serious brain or

spinal injuries; 30 percent of U.S. troops develop serious mental

health problems within 3 to 4 months of returning home.

During the President's tenure, he has requested a cumulative total of

more than $700 billion to pay for the war effort in Iraq; $9 billion of

U.S. taxpayers money is unaccounted for.

The State of New York has lost 143 soldiers, 16 from Brooklyn. U.S.

troops continue to die from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) have

been sent to Iraq with poorly constructed and poorly armored equipment.

Pentagon war planners have created a high level task force that has

spent $6.7 billion on how to combat IEDs.

Thousands of Americans are dead, thousand more will die if we don't

get our troops home and get them redeployed today. I oppose the

President's call for 21,000 more troops to go to Iraq. I support our

troops and that's why I want them home where they belong.