I thank the gentleman from New York for

yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as President Bush and his top military advisers

implement the new plan for victory in Iraq, we must be united in a

common goal for victory, and we should never forget that our enemy is

listening to this debate, just as our troops are listening to every

word of every Member of this Congress.

As many of my colleagues have done, I have personally visited Iraq. I

have seen the progress and I have seen the good job that our brave men

and women are doing for us and for the people of Iraq.

We have achieved some major accomplishments in Iraq. Women are now

able to vote in real elections for the first time in their lives. Iraqi

citizens are now able to protest and let their opinions be heard in

public, and Iraq is a self-governing nation, free of tyranny.

I was proud to sit down and share a meal with many soldiers from

South Carolina's First District. And the question many of our soldiers

kept asking me was, why are none of the good stories making it back to

the folks at home?

Mr. Speaker, I think that many of us today are trying to share some

of the good stories and recognize some of the positive things that our

brave men and women in Iraq are doing for us.

South Carolina's First District has a high proportion of active and

retired military personnel and are directly impacted by the war in the

Middle East. At the Charleston Air Force Base, the C-17 aircraft that

come and go are a direct link in the supply chain that assist our brave

soldiers fighting for us in Iraq.

At Force Protection in Ladson, South Carolina, they continue to build

the Buffalo and the Cougar vehicles that save the lives of our soldiers

against the mines and IED attacks every day.

Last year on Memorial Day, in my capacity as chairman of the Veterans

Affairs Subcommittee on Health, I was fortunate enough to be the guest

speaker at an American cemetery in Normandy, France, which overlooks

Omaha Beach.

Our brave soldiers during World War II were in France not to fight

the French, but to fight the occupying Nazis. Today our soldiers are

not in Iraq and Afghanistan to fight the citizens of those countries,

but are there to fight the insurgents in Iraq and the Taliban in

Afghanistan.

In listening to the debate over the past few days, it reminded me of

my visit and reading some of the names of the brave soldiers that

fought our Nation's war during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 9,300 buried in Normandy. Those brave

souls fought in a war against the forces of evil then, just as our

soldiers in Iraq are fighting against the forces of evil today.

What would have happened if Franklin Delano Roosevelt pulled our

troops out of France after the casualties we took storming the beaches

of Normandy? If Franklin Delano Roosevelt was alive today, what would

he think of this debate which empowers and energizes our enemies and

demoralizes our brave fighting men and women? What would America have

done if the Congress enacted a nonbinding resolution to pull our troops

out of France after D-Day? What kind of world would we be living in

today?

Iraq is directly tied to the future security of our Nation, and

consequently, failure in Iraq is not an option.

I do not believe we have already lost in Iraq, but we will lose if we

don't give the troops what they need to win. I remain hopeful that the

Democrats and Republicans can unite around a new policy, clearly

defining our troops' mission for the sake of our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I support President Bush and his vision for the new

strategy for victory in Iraq. I cannot in good faith support this

resolution because it sends our soldiers the message that the United

States Congress believes that they cannot succeed in their mission. It

is much easier to complain, while offering no real ideas or

alternatives. This resolution is all bark and no bite.

I will conclude with a quote from a good friend and someone I am

proud to have as my constituent, Medal of Honor recipient and retired

Major General James Livingston. ``Today we have a choice of fighting

the enemy in Iraq. If we do not take them on in Iraq, then we will be

forced to fight the enemy here on our homeland.''

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this resolution.