Mr. Speaker, leaving the Capitol last night, I came

across a sign on the Seventh Street Bridge overpass that said,

``Democrats, get a peace plan.''

Clearly, someone felt that this nonbinding resolution does not get us

any closer to peace, and some, myself included, would argue that this

resolution takes us further away from our goal of securing the peace.

Retreat, surrender, leaving, disengagement, that is the view of some

politicians in Washington, DC, making decisions on combat operations

overseas. If there is any clear comparison to Vietnam, this legislation

is it.

Here is the Republican plan for peace, victory. In the 1980s, it was

a peace through strength that was a military I was proud to serve in.

Our last best chance for victory is by supporting the decisions of the

commanders in the field. Their current request is to reinforce the

Iraqi military and police who will take the lead in military action

against all insurgents and al Qaeda in Iraq.

We are to ensure reconstruction continues to empower Iraq's security

forces and newly elected leadership to be prepared to fully assume

their destiny, and to leave, when asked, by a sovereign country of

Iraq.

It is our national security interest to support moderate Arab states.

Moderate Arab states that are democratic observe the rule of law,

support women's rights, and are allies with us in the war on

international jihadist terrorists. We have an opportunity for Iraq to

be a moderate Arab state and an ally.

However, we can be assured if we leave early that the radicals will

take over after an ensuing and huge bloodbath and will forever be an

enemy to the United States. During the buildup to the Iraqi

constitutional elections, I wore a flag pin representing both Iraq and

the United States of America.

As I have traveled about my district in the past weeks, I have put

the pin back as a sign of solidarity with a sovereign and free Iraq.

What this resolution does is sever this alliance. This commitment

emboldens our adversaries. It tells the world we are unable to go the

distance and keep our commitment to do the right thing.

Well, I will not accept defeat, and especially from political

armchair quarterbacks. The military commanders in the field have asked

for reinforcements. This appeal may be our last best hope for a free

democratic Iraq willing to be able to protect their citizens and

support us in the war on terrorism.

Are we politicians sitting safe and secure in Washington, DC, going

to say no to this request? Surely not.

Throughout our history, a debate such as this has occurred on the

floor of the House and across the Nation. Monday was the 198th

anniversary of the birth of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. At his

tomb I read this quote from the Gettysburg Address, which I believe is

applicable today. ``It is for the living, rather, to be dedicated here

to the unfinished work which they who have fought here have thus far so

nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great

task remaining before us--that from these honored dead we take

increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full

measure of devotion--that we here highly resolve that these dead shall

not have died in vain . . . ''

Instead of fighting, we are arguing amongst ourselves. We ought to

commit our country to finish the task at hand. We should be united in

the cause and to pray to God, the Creator of all, to bless our efforts

here, the efforts of our military, the government of Iraq, her people,

and, yes, even our enemies.

I want to end with another quote from Abraham Lincoln. In his

farewell address to Springfield as President-Elect, he said: ``Today I

leave you; I go to assume a task more difficult than that which

devolved upon General Washington. Unless the great God who assisted him

shall be with me and aid me, I must fail. But if the same omniscient

mind, and Almighty arm that directed and protected him, shall guide and

support me, I shall not fail, I shall succeed. Let us all pray that the

God of our Father may not forsake us now. To him I commend you all.

Permit me to ask that with equal security and faith, you all will

invoke His wisdom and guidance for me.''

May God bless our President and military leaders. May God bless our

men and women in uniform who volunteered to protect our Nation from

harm, and may God bless the United States of America.