Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan

resolution.

I could ask a question, were we ready to go to war? I don't think so.

I just want to put a little of the history of Iraq in context. And we

probably remember these names, Specialist Edgar Hernandez, Specialist

Joseph Hudson, Specialist Shoshana Johnson, PFC Jessica Lynch, PFC

Patrick Miller and Sergeant James Riley. They were all members of the

507th Maintenance Company that went missing after an Iraqi ambush in

Nasiriya on March 23, 2003.

They were a maintenance company. They weren't supposed to be in front

of the infantry. And, of course, we understand this is war and there is

a confusion.

They were taken prisoners. But this illustrates for us again that we

were not ready for this war from the beginning. We went in with too few

soldiers, who, by the way, were not greeted with flowers or parades.

This administration went against the recommendations of the Chief of

Staff of the Army, General

Shinseki, who said, you know what, we need no less than 250,000 troops

to overwhelm the enemy. So what happened? We went in with less than

that. What was the goal? To go straight to Baghdad. And we left the

left flank, the right flank completely open. Not only that. With

thousands of ammunition dumps all over the place in Iraq, you know

what? They were ready for war. They were ready for us. But we were not

ready for them. Because a lot of things went wrong in this war. The

intelligence was flawed. It was wrong. And, my friends, I am saying

this because we cannot afford to make a another mistake such as this.

I was just at a hearing about an hour ago, 2 hours ago, and let me

read to you what the Chief of Staff of the Army, Schoomaker, said just

a few moments ago. He said, ``After years of insufficient investment in

the Army, many of our units were underequipped and not ready for

deployment, especially in our Reserve units. To meet combatant

commanders' immediate wartime needs, we pulled equipment from across

the force to equip those soldiers deploying into harm's way, a practice

that we are continuing today to meet current operational needs.''

My friends, we are at war. We support our soldiers. The men and women

in uniform are in dangerous places around the world to do their duty on

behalf of all of us, military, civilian, Republicans, Democrats, and

independents.

This resolution is very simple: Congress and the American people will

continue to support and protect the members of the United States Armed

Forces who are serving or who have served bravely and honorably in

Iraq; and Congress disapproves of the decision of the President of the

United States, George W. Bush, who announced on January 10, 2007, to

deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq.

Now, it is going to take more than 21,000 soldiers. You have got to

send support troops. So I think sometimes I wonder whether if we could

just pause or take time off so that we could regroup or correct the

mistakes. But you can't do that when you are in the middle of two wars.

This is a different mission, and we ask our soldiers to do the best

that they can, and then we say that we need for the Iraqis to stand up

so we can stand down. My friends, if we cannot even equip our military,

how can we expect to equip the Iraqis so that they can stand up?