Mr. Speaker, we come here today, we have spent most of the

day on this, to discuss a resolution. It has two parts. The first says

that we support our troops, and the second says that we are opposed to

the mission that the troops are sent on.

Now, the problem with the resolution is that it is self-contradictory

right up front. If we were going to say we are supporting our troops,

we would give them body armor. We would give them up-armored Humvees.

We would give them tanks. But would we withhold the most important in

our arsenal and that is other American fighting men and women? So to

say that we are going to support our troops, but we are not

going to send them any reinforcements is on the face of it

contradictory. Could you picture Davy Crockett at the Alamo looking at

his BlackBerry, getting a message from Congress: Davy Crockett, we

support you. The only thing is we are not going to send any troops. I

am sure that would really be impressive to Davy Crockett.

The second problem with this resolution is that it really misses the

job of what Congressmen should be doing. Look, I am an engineer by

training. If we are about to make a mistake or we are doing something

wrong, I am open minded to my Democrat colleagues saying to me, Todd,

we are going down the wrong path. That is a bad idea. You should do it

this way instead. I was always trained that if you are ready to

criticize somebody, you at least offer an alternative. But the problem

with this nifty little resolution is that it says we support the

troops, but we are not going to give them any reinforcements, and then

it is blank. There is no recommendation. There is no leadership. They

are just saying we are going to stand on the sidelines and say, It

won't work. But don't we owe our soldiers something positive, something

specific, a positive recommendation?

The Democrats have been elected to majority. That means leadership.

That means if you have got a better idea, put it on the table; but if

you don't, shut up and don't undermine the morale of our troops and

encourage our enemies. That isn't very helpful.

Now, I have heard people talking about the fact that this is a civil

war. This isn't a civil war. If we leave, it will be what is a real

civil war. Right now there is a lot of ethnic clashing and violence,

and what is that caused by? Guess what, terrorists. They said they are

doing it intentionally. They blow up a holy place of the Shias, and the

Shias react and they go shoot up a bunch of Sunnis, and so, yes. But

who started all of this? Well, of course, it is the terrorists. It is

their intention. And do we think if they can destabilize Iraq by

fomenting strife between racial groups that they won't take the same

strategy to the other barely stable nations in the Middle East, nations

where you have a Sunni leadership and a Shia majority? Are they not

going to do the same? Or are you going to say, oh, but it is a civil

war, so we can wash our hands of it, it is nothing to worry about?

Now, we had the ambassadors to Egypt and to Jordan, and they pleaded

with us today, do not rapidly withdraw your troops. So we started to

ask, well, what would happen if we were to do this? Well, nobody knows.

But there is one thing we can kind of assume. All the way through

history, the history of mankind, whenever there is anarchy, it lasts

but a short time; and it is immediately filled with some kind of very

strong dictator. Now, do we think that the dictator is going to be a

moderate, reasonable sort of guy, or if we pull out of Iraq

immediately, is it not likely that we are going to get an

Islamoterrorist dictator? I think that that makes at least some sense.

So then now what do we have? Now we have Iraq with the oil money

supporting it, with this crazy dictator spreading this same kind of

radical Islam all over the Middle East. That is a minimum for the

scenario of what we are potentially looking at if we rapidly withdraw.

Now, it seems to me that all of us, as Americans, need a little bit

of a direction check. And I think sometimes when we need direction, it

is helpful to look at the people who came and founded this great Nation

before us. And so I go back to a question that I ask audiences, not

only school kids but adults. I ask them, What is it that makes America

so unique and so precious? If you take America like an onion and take

all the outer layers off, when you get down to the heart, what makes us

who we are as a people? And invariably I hear the word ``freedom.'' But

that is not quite sufficient because it isn't quite complete. You see,

the people at Tiananmen Square, those little kids in college, wanted

freedom, but they greased the treads of Chinese tanks. Just because you

want freedom doesn't mean you can have it.

There was more to what our Founders understood, and they set it forth

before we embarked on our first war as a Nation eloquently in our

Declaration of Independence. It says: ``We hold these truths to be

self-evident.'' Rather flowery language. Any idiot should know this:

``That all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable

Rights, that among these is Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of

Happiness.'' And our job in government is to protect those God-given

rights. It is not just an idea; it was a conviction. People say ideas

have consequences. Many idiots have ideas, but an idea that you die for

has consequences. And this idea was powerful. It is the engine that has

driven America. It has guided us in times of war because we will say,

yes, we believe there are certain fundamental God-given rights that all

people are given.

And that is what I taught my son when he was a little kid. Here he is

with the Marine Club, just a little guy, saluting Old Glory with a

whole bunch of little kids in some motley uniforms they bought from the

used equipment store for military services. Here he is posing just as

proud as can be. Founder of the Marine Club, taught, taught that there

are some things in this world that are worth dying for, and those

convictions are the fact that God gives us life and liberty and the

pursuit of happiness. And I believe America still believes that.

There is the little marine. He has grown up now. That is the cache of

terrorist arms that was found in Fallujah. That is the gang that he had

the proud opportunity to lead as a second lieutenant in Fallujah

because he believes that there is nothing particularly strange for us

to be fighting terrorists.

Why would it be so odd for us to fight terrorists? What do terrorists

believe? They believe that you blow up innocent people. What do we

believe? That life is a gift from God.

What do terrorists do terrorism for? To take your liberty away, to

compel you to do something you don't want to do, to make women into

slaves, to take away people's freedom, to take away your liberty. That

is what terrorism is for, and that is fundamentally against the idea

that God made people to be free. That is why he fights.

That is why America has always fought. There is nothing weird or

unusual about this. Is it worth fighting terrorists? Is it worth

risking your life for freedom? I taught my son yes. When I went over to

visit him, together we reaffirmed what we were doing in Iraq.

What? Is it so unusual that we have a debate about whether we should

be going to war or not? That very first war was over the Declaration of

Independence. There was a gentleman from Virginia who said, What has

there been in the conduct? But perhaps maybe we could adjust his words.

What has there been in the conduct of the terrorists that gives us

any room for hope? The terrorists say the only good Jew is a dead Jew,

the only good Christian is a dead Christian. That doesn't leave you a

lot of room for negotiation.

If we want to stay free, we must fight. Millions of Americans that

are armed in the holy cause of liberty are invincible by any force

which the terrorists may send against us. A just God presides over the

destinies of nations. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be

purchased at the price of the terrorists running the world? Forbid it,

Almighty God.

I know not what course others may take, but as for me, and as for my

son, we will choose liberty.