Mr. Speaker, while I strongly support the brave American

soldiers risking their lives to defend security and freedom, I rise in

opposition to this politically motivated resolution because it is a

farce and anyone who says otherwise is too blinded by politics to see

the truth. The truth is Iraq was not an imminent threat to America.

There were no chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons; and there was

no link between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. The only mushroom cloud

resulting from the war in Iraq is that represented by the Bush

administration's barrage of deception and lies. While President Bush

considers himself a war President, he is actually a self-made President

of war. The President created the pretext for the war in Iraq. He

planned for it before September 11, and he misused and fabricated

intelligence to sell it to the American people. Instead of debating

this empty resolution of praise for President Bush, Congress should

investigate the President's unconscionable misuse of power and

manipulation of the truth.

Despite this second declaration of ``mission accomplished'' in Iraq,

history will tell the true story as it did in Vietnam. The mission is

far from being accomplished, and President Bush will be judged harshly

for the tragic events of the past year.