Let me take this opportunity, before I

address the question our soldiers in Iraq, to thank Mr. Honda for

convening this special order on the Asian Pacific community of this

Nation and to thank him for his leadership of the Asian Pacific Caucus,

of which I am a member and to acknowledge the Asian Pacific community

in Houston, Texas, a thriving community so diverse and so respected.

I am reminded of the unity that was exhibited as Katrina survivors

who were Asian Pacific Islanders came into Houston. Both Mr. Honda and

myself worked on the issue of language and representation and

resources, and the Asian Pacific community in Houston was so united and

so supportive so that these new visitors, these strangers in a

different land, would feel welcome.

Let me also acknowledge that I have the privilege of representing not

only a very strong Vietnamese business community, but also the original

Chinatown in Houston. So my hat goes off and salutes the outstanding

leaders in that community, scientists, educators, businesspersons,

public servants, and, as well, I thank them for the wonderful service

that they give and the opportunity to work together with them. This is

an outstanding tribute to be able to honor the Asian Pacific Islander

community in the month of May.

Let me also acknowledge that the Vietnamese community will have its

first cultural event gala where it honors heroes and public servants

from around the Nation.

I would hope that as we look to the greatness of America, we will

find it in our hearts to be able to address the question of the tragedy

in Iraq. It is a tragedy that continues to grow. Every time you turn

the corner, turn the news on or read a newspaper article, it is

disintegrating and deteriorating.

Today in the newspaper it says an Army general predicts a rise in

casualties. So at the back of the surge the President says will have

solved the conflict in Iraq, we will see, tragically in the words of

Major General Rick Lynch, who is working with the 3rd Infantry

Division

His sentence does not say how we will resolve the conflict. It

doesn't say that it results in any positive end. It doesn't say that we

will be victorious in that effort, it says that the lives of Americans

will be lost. We, as Americans, believe that when we go to war, the

Nation goes to war. Therefore, it is important to have a mission to

have a conclusion to that mission.

Compounded to that issue, we show that attacks killed eight U.S.

troops. They kill them because they are being killed by IEDs. They kill

them because there is no mission, there is no policy, there is no

political policy. There is no end, there is no beginning.

So I ask the President to sit down with this Congress and be able to

resolve this by, one, leaving in the language that says, we will

redeploy the troops by July, 2007, or, at the latest, October, 2007,

have a rational policy for exiting from the conflict that is causing

the mounting lives that are lost.

In addition, lives are being lost in Afghanistan of a civilian

population, lives of the civilian Iraqis are being lost, and there is

no response from this administration.

While there they are wining and dining, I would simply ask in

addition to that responsibility, let us find a conclusion to the war in

Iraq by reconciliation and compromise between the executive and, of

course, the Congress. We cannot tolerate any more headlines like this,

mothers and fathers, husbands and wives are asking why, when there is

no end. The soldiers are our heroes. They have done their job. We have

said this over and over.

I commend to this body H.R. 930, my legislation, Military Success in

Iraq and Diplomatic Surge for National and Political Reconciliation in

Iraq Act of 2007. Declare a military victory, our soldiers have been

victorious. Let them come home to yellow ribbons and celebrations and

their families, have them prepared, stronger, increased, a stronger

military, with the right kind of equipment.

Let the generals logistically plan how they will redeploy, possibly

to the Kuwait borders and to the other borders, but let them come home.

We are not trying to dictate to the generals how to redeploy, what the

logistics would be, but we are only saying that the policy is a failed

policy, and our soldiers must come home. No more headlines, Army

general predicts rise in U.S. casualties, no more headlines eight

troops dead and continuing to die with no solution and no end.

I ask my colleagues to review H.R. 930 and ask the President and this

Congress to find a way that we can work together.