Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Missouri for

recognizing that Missouri, too, is the State of my birth, and I am

delighted to be on the floor today with him because he has provided

wonderful leadership for our caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I came today to the floor to shame the Republicans and

the President for politicizing this tragic war in Iraq. God bless our

soldiers. They do not deserve to be made pawns in political

gamesmanship. There are many Members who love and support our soldiers

but refuse to be blackmailed into supporting this preemptive strike

doctrine of this administration and to be used by this President. Just

as President Bush is attempting to use the New York 9/11 scene as a

backdrop in his political advertisement, this resolution is being used

to paint the picture that this President is a tough leader, fighting

terrorism and winning.

Mr. Speaker, this President is not winning. Our country and the world

is not more secure. Tragically, over 564 soldiers have died since the

war began last year, and thousands more have been injured. The

administration has spent $157 billion so far in this war, and even the

allies who have supported him are being retaliated against.

If my friends on the opposite side of the aisle were sincere about

gathering us all together in a resolution to say to our soldiers thank

you for your sacrifices, they would have done what was asked of them by

the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha) today: Pull this one-sided

resolution off the floor, get Democrats involved, let us join hands and

support our soldiers.

This is the most divisive administration that this country has ever

had, polarizing us, putting us at each others' throats. It is a shame,

and I do not mind saying it on this floor today. You need to withdraw

it.