Mr. Speaker, a number of Members have said this resolution

is simply about commending the troops and the people of Iraq. If that

were truly the case, this measure would enjoy unanimous support. On the

contrary, in what it says and what it fails to say, it attempts to

speak to the handling of the war. It glosses over the serious

intelligence failures and serious misstatements by the Bush

administration concerning Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

It papers over the lack of preparation for the aftermath of the war

as well as the initial failure to actively seek international support

and continued lack of it. It ignores the equipment shortages that need

to be addressed to protect our troops. It fails to make any mention of

the 565 U.S. soldiers who have died in Iraq, or the thousands who have

been wounded, or the sacrifices of their families.

The resolution before the House today does not bring credit to this

institution. It tries a well-used tactic to divide and conquer.

Instead, it is a case of dividing and losing: dividing this House when

it is a subject that needs unity and losing further credibility for the

Republican House that does not even try to act on a bipartisan basis.