Mr. Speaker, in October 2002, I voted to authorize the

use of force to remove Saddam Hussein, and I would again. I think it

was the right decision for this country.

I agree with the resolution statement that the world is safer with

the removal of this leader from Baghdad; I believe it is. And the

succession of changes that we have seen in Syria, Libya, and Iran are

evidence of that.

I went to Iraq in January and saw young people serving this country

in uniform and the leadership that they showed us, and I was so proud

of them. They have never let us down.

I think today with this resolution we are letting them down.

Leadership is about unifying people; it is about healing wounds; it is

about bringing people together. There are many patriotic Members of

this body who in good faith believe the world is not safer because

Saddam Hussein is gone. I respectfully disagree with them, but we

should have been able to come together today on the first anniversary

of the initiation of hostilities and focus on the soldiers, sailors,

airmen and marines and the guardsmen, and we should have been able to

focus on what we agree on; and what we agree on is we respect their

service, we mourn the loss of our dead, we are ready to heal those who

have come home wounded, and then we are ready to debate the foreign

policy of this country as to how we should go forward. We have let our

troops down by this resolution, and it is a shame.