Mr. Speaker, I support commending our troops, but I

believe the war with Iraq did not make the United States safer. We know

that Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11 and no connection to al Qaeda

which poses the real threat to the safety of the American people.

We know that the war in Iraq diverted resources from the war against

al Qaeda and the Taliban, which is staging a resurgence in Afghanistan

today. We know that the war in Iraq alienated our allies whose help and

intelligence we need to fight the real threat, the Islamic terrorists.

We know that the war against Iraq makes it much harder to take action,

perhaps military action, if necessary, to deal with the very real

potential threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

After the administration misled this House, misled the American

people, and misled the world about the nonexistent Iraqi weapons of

mass destruction, who will believe us if we need to act against the

real nuclear threat from Iran?

I believe this war made us less safe because it dealt with a phantom

threat, not the real threat. It diverted resources from the real

threat. This resolution is good in commending our troops, but

untruthful in saying the war against Iraq made us safer. Therefore, I

cannot vote for it.