Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the

time. First and foremost, let us all begin by thanking and saluting

each and every American soldier, more than 500 of whom have died,

thousands who have been injured, and several hundred thousand who are

on active duty today, for their service and continued service doing

what they are commanded to do every day. But under the shield of

commending our troops, the sponsors of this measure are trying to run

through what I believe is a resolution that does really nothing to,

one, equip our soldiers with the body armor they still need and the

extra protection for the armored vehicles that they use in Iraq, does

nothing to restore veterans benefits that President Bush's budget

proposes to cut for health care for our veterans, does nothing to bring

in meaningful assistance from our so-called coalition partners or the

international community to help patrol the streets of Iraq and rebuild

the nation and the billions of dollars it will cost. And this

resolution does nothing to lay out the exit strategy this Nation will

need to tell our troops when they will be able to come home and when we

will be able to stop spending the billions of dollars every day abroad.

Mr. Speaker, this is a resolution which can commend our troops, and

should; but it does nothing to move the ball forward.