I would like to thank the ranking member for his

leadership.

Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues on the House Committee on Armed

Services, I have been pleased to provide our troops with the support

and the equipment that they need to succeed in their mission, and I

have had the privilege of traveling to Iraq to meet with some of them

personally. I am so proud of the job that they are doing. God bless

them. Iraq's transition to democracy and the ongoing war on terrorism

will pose new challenges for our men and women in uniform, but they may

take comfort in the knowledge that this Congress stands behind them.

Yet despite the fact that every Member of this Chamber supports our

troops, this resolution was prepared with no input from Democrats. Just

as the administration has adopted a ``go it alone'' strategy on

numerous foreign policy initiatives, the House leadership has done the

exact same thing when drafting legislation. This resolution could have

and should have been prepared with bipartisan input. I am disappointed

that inappropriate tactics have overshadowed the unanimity we share in

support of our Armed Forces.