Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this

time.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution asks that the House affirm that the

United States and the world is a safer place today with the removal of

Saddam Hussein and his regime from power in Iraq. Who can argue with

that? Saddam Hussein, a tyrant that is responsible for so many

thousands of deaths, a tyrant that has used weapons of mass destruction

in the past.

There was a famous frontiersman who said, Be sure you are right, then

go ahead. That was reported to be Davy Crockett. I think that is what

we are about a year later, after going to war against Saddam Hussein

and Iraq.

A colleague of ours mentioned earlier, this whole thing was about

judgment. Well, I would submit that it is also about responsibility, it

is also about accountability, and it is also about credibility. Why do

I say that? Because when we talk about the world being a safer place

today, I want us to remember that 55-some-odd families are without

their loved ones today that have been killed in Iraq carrying out this

war.

I saw into the eyes of Sergeant Rico's widow who asked me why. And I

told her that we were very proud of the sacrifice that had been made by

her husband and by her family. But she continued to ask me why. And

that is why I think it is about responsibility. Did we do the

responsible thing by attacking Iraq and Saddam Hussein when we knew

that he had nothing to do with 9-11? It is also about accountability. A

year later, we are finding out that he did not have weapons of mass

destruction. And, obviously, it is about credibility, because if we as

the last superpower are going to benefit from credibility, we have to

be patient, we have to understand what the threat is, and we have to

act responsibly. That is what I think this is about.

I am going to support this resolution, as I support the men and women

in uniform. But this whole issue is about those three words:

responsibility, accountability, and credibility.