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

time.

Mr. Speaker, if all we were doing here on the floor today on the

House was commending our troops for their valor, there would be no

debate. There would be no disagreement and there would be no

opposition. This resolution, however, says something more than that we

honor our troops.

What this resolution says is that we, the House of Representatives,

affirm that ``the United States and the world have been made safer with

the removal of Saddam Hussein and his regime from power in Iraq.''

There is not a Member of this body that mourns the fact that Saddam

Hussein and his regime have been removed from power. We all agree that

Saddam was a brutal thug. The problem is that America was told before

the war that we would be made safer by fighting to find and destroy

Saddam's weapons of mass destruction. We now know that those weapons

either did not exist, in which case we fought a war based on flawed

intelligence, or that there really were weapons of mass destruction, in

which case they are now in the hands of Saddam's

Baathist henchmen or al Qaeda terrorists or some other party, and that

would put us in greater peril than we were before the war started.

Moreover, if we switch our TV from C-SPAN to CNN, we will see that

another bomb has gone off in Baghdad today, killing more than 25 and

wounding nearly 50 innocent people. We will see that two American

missionaries have been assassinated in Iraq. We will see reports of

more and more targeted assassinations of civilian employees of the

Coalition Authority, as well as continued attacks on our military

forces in Iraq.

Meanwhile, the real terrorist threat to America, al Qaeda, continues

to organize and plan future terrorist attacks against our country.

Osama bin Laden and some of his top lieutenants remain at large. Mullah

Omar, the head of the Taliban, remains at large.

What is happening on the House floor today is symptomatic of

everything that is wrong with the Bush administration and Republican

leaders in Washington. Instead of working together in a bipartisan

fashion to congratulate the troops for the wonderful job which they

did, they seek to divide this House by forcing us to vote on something

which, in fact, is not an accurate representation of what has happened

across this world.