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

time.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution commends the men and women of the United

States Armed Forces and the Coalition forces for their valiant service.

It is appropriate to do that. They have made huge sacrifices, their

families have. In many cases, the soldiers have made the ultimate

sacrifice in their response to the call of their country.

As a member of the committee that oversees the Intelligence

Community, let me also add my gratitude to the incredibly hardworking

men and women of the Intelligence Community whose role in Iraq is less

public but no less vital and in many cases is every bit as dangerous.

These dedicated public servants should have all the tools they need to

accomplish their mission. So rather than simply commending the Iraqi

people for their courage and their accomplishments, rather than simply

thanking these brave men and women in the U.S. armed services and

Intelligence Community with words, we should see that they have what

they need to do their jobs.

This resolution today, I believe, has different motivation than

simply to honor our troops. It really is more about the House of

Representatives patting themselves on the back than it is to honor our

troops.

It perpetuates a simplistic thinking that took us into the war with

unexamined intelligence, and clearly there were deficiencies in the

intelligence that took us up to and into that war. It perpetuates the

simplistic thinking that left our troops unprepared for the postwar

occupation, and it perpetuates a kind of divisive thinking. I mean,

what can be more divisive than a closed rule that allows no amendments,

no substitutes, really nothing to make this a better resolution?

It is not enough to say thanks in words to 550 families who have lost

someone in Iraq. They want more than thanks and words. Same for the

more than 3,000 families of the wounded. If we only give them what they

need, this resolution would be more meaningful: more armored Humvees,

more language speakers, more support.