Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the valiant service from our

men and women in our Armed Services. That's why I am disappointed that

the House leadership decided to present this toothless resolution

rather than provide real assistance for our troops.

They say this resolution is meant to thank the American military men

and women serving in Iraq. But if they truly wanted to honor these

soldiers--this same leadership should have supported my amendment last

year that would have given every American soldier serving in Iraq and

Afghanistan a $1,500 bonus. But it failed with 210 Republicans voting

against it.

The President is traveling across the country to mark the war's

anniversary and thank our troops. Yet his budget cuts Veterans health

benefits--just like last year. Some thanks!

I support this resolution. But let's be clear: this resolution won't

save any lives; it won't provide adequate body armor and armored

humvees to our troops any quicker; it doesn't repair the damage done to

our reputation in the international community, it won't bring our

troops home any sooner and it won't heal a single wound or restore a

single American life lost in Iraq.

The resolution also fails to answer some key questions:

Why did this Administration mislead the American people 237 times in

their statements about the so-called immediate threat from Iraq? As Mr.

Murtha of Pennsylvania stated, ``never have so few, misled so many.''

Why did this Administration say that reconstruction would only cost

Americans $1.7 billion and that other countries and Iraqi oil would

cover the rest? Instead American taxpayers have paid billions of

dollars in rebuilding Iraq--and the tab is likely to increase in the

next year.

To date, we have spent more than $150 billion in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, more than 560 soldiers have died in Iraq and another

5,300 have been injured. We owe it to them, to their families and to

all Americans to level with them and given them the straight answers on

why we went into Iraq and how long it will take to get the job done.

Like all Americans, I am proud of our Americans soldiers in Iraq who

are serving their country with dedication and courage. But I am not

proud of those in the Administration that may have misled our great

Nation into war.