Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this

resolution. We ought to be honoring those who gave their lives, their

limbs and sacrificed their futures for our country. So far, 565 service

members have lost their lives, more than 3,000 have been wounded--many

losing limbs--and now we are seeing American civilians becoming

targets.

Instead, we are here today making hollow political pronouncements

that the war was right and just and that somehow our Nation and our

world are more secure. Unfortunately, the opposite appears to be true.

Americans are less safe and the world is more dangerous--precisely

because of the Bush policy in Iraq.

On this anniversary of the war we ought to include in this resolution

the names of the heroes who gave their lives. We ought to be honoring

and commending these brave Americans for what they have given and

sacrificed along with the troops who continue to serve valiantly. But,

the Bush administration doesn't want to talk about--or expose--the 565

Americans who've been killed and the 3,254 wounded.

The omission of this remembrance demonstrates that President Bush and

his Administration are good at taking credit, but terrible at accepting

responsibility.

We've seen in the past few weeks the President cloaking himself in

September 11th. He's put images of ground zero in his campaign ads. I

wouldn't be surprised if he didn't go so far as to give his acceptance

speech for the Republican presidential nomination at that very site as

the entire Republican Party politicizes September 11th at their

upcoming convention.

Yet, President Bush won't attend any funerals or memorial services

for soldiers killed in action in Iraq.

In fact, he's prohibited access to Dover Air Force Base to the media

altogether. The Department of Defense has broken a long tradition by

prohibiting arrival ceremonies because the images of these casualties

are an embarrassment to President Bush.

The President knows that American troops were sent to Iraq ill

prepared and without enough equipment to keep them safe. Soldiers face

daily threats there. They don't have sufficient body armor or armored

vehicles as rocket propelled grenades and roadside bombs take lives and

limbs.

The President knows the troops wouldn't be there in the first place

if he hadn't misled the American people. We now know--far too late--

that the intelligence community never told the President or senior

administration officials that Iraq posed an imminent threat or that it

had weapons of mass destruction. Yet, President Bush continually

referred to Iraq as an ``urgent,'' ``mortal'' and ``immediate'' threat

in making his case for war.

The President knows his mind was already made up to go to war. Today,

he should know the world is not a safer place as a result, especially

for our troops. I will not support a resolution that falsely makes any

such claim.

While senior defense officials have told Congress that we will run

out of money and need another $19 billion in September, the President's

Budget does not include a single penny of this spending. He simply

refuses to give the American public the plain facts.

America and our security would benefit from a new approach to foreign

policy. Imagine a President who embraces global cooperation, respects

international law and institutions and promotes political and economic

freedom and human rights around the globe. Imagine America exercising

responsible leadership that reflects our priorities and capable of

partnerships that make our world safer.

This would be a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives in

Iraq. We should work for what these servicemen and women believed they

could achieve: a more secure future for America and stronger, more

peaceful world. That's the resolution I wish we were here considering

today instead of this overblown rhetoric attempting to justify a failed

Presidential agenda.