Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to

H. Res. 557. This resolution to mark the one year anniversary of the

United States led military invasion of Iraq is a partisan measure. The

brave men and women who continue to serve our Nation and fight for

democracy in Iraq deserve bipartisan cooperation and an alternative

resolution to the divisive proposal introduced today.

Back home in the fifth district of Missouri I have visited with

families of service men and women to hear their concerns about the

needs of our troops. Their message is clear: ``We want them home. In

the meantime, we want them safe.'' The Administration's budget proposes

$1.2 billion less than the amount requested by Veterans Affairs

Secretary Anthony Principi which the Veterans of Foreign Wars terms a

``disgraceful'' level of funding for veterans' healthcare. We must also

provide active service members with the equipment, training and

resources they need to protect our freedom and fight the war on

terrorism.

On the one year anniversary of our involvement in Iraq, we praise the

efforts and sacrifices of those who put their lives on the line for us

every day. Let our future actions on their behalf reflect that. This

resolution does not.