Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Almost, in fact a little bit more than 61 years ago, the 101st

Airborne parachuted into Normandy. And a few miles away the Fourth

Infantry Division was wading through bloody waters onto Utah Beach. And

thousands of miles away, the First Marine Division was culminating a

series of island operations, including Guadalcanal, Pelalieu and many

others, very dangerous, very bloody. We call them the Greatest

Generation. And you know, today, the 101st Airborne anchors the Sunni

Triangle. The Fourth Infantry Division, including many of the

grandchildren of those great members of the Greatest Generation, are in

Baghdad. And the First Marine Division is out in that very dangerous al

Anbar Province in towns called Ramadi and Fallujah. I call them the New

Greatest Generation.

But there is a difference between them and their forefathers of the

101st and the Fourth Infantry Division and the First Marine Division,

and that is that the Greatest Generation of World War II had a Congress

that was united behind their mission. I think we owe it to this New

Greatest Generation to unite behind their mission, and not just because

it is their mission and we are Congress and we oversee national

security, but because we gave them the mission. We voted overwhelmingly

in the House of Representatives to go into Afghanistan and Iraq. We,

not somebody else, we gave them the mission. They have carried out that

mission. They have carried it out in thousands of firefights at 10,000-

foot elevations in Afghanistan, taking down safe houses in Mosul and

Tikrit and Fallujah and many other areas in Iraq, winning 45,000 bronze

stars for valor and meritorious service, among many other medals; and

you know, all the while taking on the enemy, they inoculated over 5

million children against diseases, re-stood up over 3,000 schools,

built hundreds of hospitals, and they carried the free elections of the

Afghan and Iraqi people on their shoulders. That is why we had free

elections in those two countries.

Now, you know, when we started this thing, and if you look at the

literature of al Qaeda and the terrorist organizations, they question

the capability of the American troops. They no longer question that

capability. Mr. Zarqawi does not question that capability. Saddam

Hussein does not question that capability. They have been convinced of

it in thousands of firefights. They don't question the troops'

commitment to this mission. And the troops' commitment to this mission

is manifested in reenlistments rates. For the Fourth ID, the Third ID,

the 101st, the 10th Mountain Division, the First Marines,

reenlistments, after multiple tours of more than 130 percent of the

requirement.

They don't question the continued commitment of the President. They

have seen this President go through highs and lows in the polls and

continue his commitment to the mission that we launched together. The

only question they have now is us. They question our commitment to this

mission. And this resolution, Mr. Speaker, is a chance to unite this

House of Representatives by restating our commitment to this mission.

Let's do it so that tonight, when those troops come home from their

patrols and their recons and their convoys and they look at the news,

they are going to say the United States House of Representatives, they

stand with us.