Mr. Speaker, although I am in opposition to

the resolution, I strongly support our men and women in uniform who are

fighting to protect our freedom. These brave men and women have made,

and continue to make, the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our great

country. Approximately 2,500 soldiers have given their lives for our

country in this war. Approximately 2,500 families across America have

been left devastated by the loss of a loved one. Mothers and fathers

have lost their cherished sons and

daughters, men and women have lost their spouses, children have lost

parents. Their sacrifices will forever be remembered.

Our Government has spent more than $250 billion on the war in Iraq,

and that number is increasing at the rate of $177 million per day.

However, just as we cannot put a dollar figure on the cost of lives and

limbs our brave soldiers have lost, we also cannot put a dollar figure

on the amount of pride that we as citizens have for them. While our

soldiers fight and persevere because they, more than anyone, realize

what is at stake in Iraq, it is my sincere hope that we can bring them

home soon and reunite them with their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, although I am in opposition to this resolution, today,

tomorrow, and as long as our precious Republic shall exist, we should

continue to honor our men and women for their sacrifice, devotion, and

continued defense of our country.

God bless America and thank God for the sacrifices made by our brave

men and women in uniform.