Mr. Speaker, today I rise once more to denounce our

continued involvement in the Iraq war, which was the wrong decision, at

the wrong time, based on wrong information. And, what are we doing

today to correct all those wrong actions?--absolutely nothing--nothing

but talk about it. It is time for a change; it is time for a new

direction.

We are having a debate today to adopt a resolution that merely

expresses this chamber's views and opinions on our current military

engagements in the War on Terror. This resolution honors our men and

women who have given their lives in the defense of this country and it

honors our armed forces presently on active engagement overseas, among

other things. These praises to our armed forces are indeed truly

deserved, as they have been thrust into a very difficult conflict with

perilous conditions.

However, I think our troops can better appreciate Congress' good

intentions with actions rather than mere congratulatory words. This

majority could have demonstrated our appreciation of the troops through

laws that gave them all the equipment they needed when we sent them to

war. This majority could have shown their commitment by demanding that

the Commander in Chief clearly layout a plan of action and exit

strategy, instead of allowing the continuing improvisation our troops

have endured. This majority certainly might have demonstrated its

commitment to the troops by not nickel and diming them on health care

and making their reintegration to civil society more difficult and

costly; and this majority definitely could have made the ultimate honor

by acknowledging their well done job by bringing the troops home.

This majority only wants to praise them--but won't lift a finger to

make sure our troops can come home sooner rather than later. We

constantly hear the mantras such as: Stay the course; we are making

progress and so on and so forth. That is the extent of their strategy.

Mr. Speaker enough is enough! It is time to bring the troops home!

Iraq has a new democratic government; it is our responsibility to

help them secure their country. This country can help Iraq, as it helps

other countries, protect itself by providing resources and equipment.

We need to let them fight for their country in their way. It is time to

be friends and not guardians, let Iraq fight for Iraq. Our troops have

done their job; it is time to bring them home.