I rise for the purpose of a colloquy

between my friend, the chairman from Florida, and the ranking member,

my friend from Indiana.

I was planning to introduce an amendment on this issue, an amendment

that would require the Department of Defense to buy American flags that

are made in America by American workers using American-grown and

manufactured materials.

Wherever an American flag is flown, it's a symbol of the freedoms men

and women throughout our history have marched, fought, and died to

secure.

There's no greater symbol of our country, our unity, our freedom, and

our liberty than our flag.

The Veterans Administration is already required, by law, to purchase

100 percent American-made flags of American-made materials to drape the

caskets of each deceased war hero.

I understand that there are already requirements prohibiting the

Department of Defense from purchasing certain items not produced in the

United States, but there are no requirements for the Department of

Defense to purchase American-made American flags.

I believe it's important that every American flag the Department of

Defense buys should be made in America by American workers with

American materials. It's as simple as that.

At a time when our domestic manufacturing sector is struggling, and

millions in our country are out of work, it's a slap in the face to all

Americans to have their tax dollars spent on flags that are made

overseas.

I ask the gentlemen here today with me, do you share my concerns

about this issue? Will you and the ranking member, Mr. Chairman, work

with me to address this omission, and help to ensure that the brave men

and women in uniform receive American-made American flags?