Mr. Speaker, first let me thank our chairman, the gentleman

from Illinois (Mr. Hyde), and our ranking member, the gentleman from

California (Mr. Lantos), for their leadership on the Committee on

International Relations, a committee on which I am proud to serve, and

for their consistent efforts to ensure that there is bipartisanship in

this body and our committee.

Let me just say to them today that I respectfully rise to disagree

with them on this issue. This resolution does, however, express

condolences to the families of the dead soldiers and innocent Iraqis

who have been killed in Iraq. Today, unfortunately, many more lives

were lost. My thoughts and my prayers go out to these families and the

families of all of those who have been wounded in this unnecessary war.

As a daughter of a career military officer, I know what it means to

support our troops, and I do. However, this resolution paints a totally

false picture of the situation in Iraq, the fact that it ignores the

blamelessness of the President's claims that led us into this unjust

war, and that it endorses a failed Bush policy in Iraq.

As an example of what I mean, let me just draw my colleagues'

attention to page 4, the third paragraph down which says, ``Paul

Bremer, the administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority, has

ably advanced the international coalition's goals in Iraq of

transforming Iraq into a safe, secure, stable, sovereign, democratic

state that serves the interests of the Iraqi people.''

This resolution also commits our troops to an indefinite period of

time in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, this undue praise flies in the face of reality on the

ground. Again, as I said earlier, just today it is reported that 92

people have lost their lives including three United States soldiers and

more than 320 people wounded.

Moreover, this resolution completely ignores the false basis for the

war and its cost. It also leaves out the fact that we were misled

regarding the weapons of mass destruction and the alleged cooperation

between al Qaeda and Iraq as it relates to 9/11. It makes it sound as

if the occupation and the aftermath of this unjust war is a success.

Again, that ignores reality. We had choices; we had options. I

offered an amendment that would authorize the United Nations to

continue with this inspection process. Unfortunately, that failed. Now

we have a resolution that celebrates the war. I respectfully disagree,

and I must vote against it.