Well, Mr. Speaker, I am totally convinced that our men

and women know exactly what they are doing. They are proud to be there

and doing exactly what we task them to do. It looks like we have made

some major headway today in Fallujah. I think it was long past time

when we did do that. This constant drip, drip, drip of our folks

getting injured and killed could only go on so long, and I think we

gave those people far and enough time to get out of there so we could

go in there. Now they have done that; and, hopefully, we are going to

bring a little peace to that area and will settle things down.

The interesting thing is I think Americans believe when they see

actions like Fallujah, that the whole country is on fire and the whole

country is being bombed. It is not. Most of the country is stable and

being brought back to life. Schools are open, courts are open, the

water systems are up and running, sewer systems are up and running. But

when we have one little area like that that is being attacked, the

perception is that the whole country is like that, and it is not.

It is interesting, our men and women know what they are doing and

they do a great job. And even those who have been injured and brought

to field hospitals want to get well and get back again. They want to go

back to join the folks they were fighting with so they can bring this

thing to a conclusion because they know it is the right thing to do.

I think that is the story that, unfortunately, does not get out very

often.

Good news is no news in so many cases, and there are so many good

stories over there that are going on. It is a shame the American people

are not allowed to share in those. And I think the news media,

unfortunately, has not done a good enough job of showing the good-news

stories in Iraq. That is said not only for our men and women but for

their families back home.

It does.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is kind of a sad commentary,

too, because our folks are doing such a great job. When they see all

the bad stuff and when they know they are doing the good stuff, it

demoralizes them.

The two times I have been privileged to be in Iraq, these men and

women are so supercharged about what they are doing and know they are

doing the right thing. Whether they are active duty, Reserve, or Guard,

they all work together as one big unit, and I think we should be very,

very proud of every single one of them.

I think the morale is very, very good; and I think I

have something to compare it with. I was privileged to serve my country

in Vietnam for a couple of years, so I know what good morale is and

what it is not. I think the morale of these young men is far better

than it ever was when I was in Vietnam. Because, frankly, this

President made it very clear what the mission was and what the end game

was. When we send people in there knowing that is what they need to do

and they need to get it done fairly quickly, people will serve and

serve very well; and they will be enthusiastic about it.

We did not do that in Vietnam. We played a limited war game in

Vietnam, and we were never in there to win.

This President is in there to win the war on terror. Because if we do

not, it will be spread not only to the countries of the Middle East but

everywhere and right here on our soil. And, frankly, I would rather

fight it on their soil than have to fight it here at some point.

And, Mr. Speaker, the chairman of our House Committee on

Armed Services is absolutely right. And if, in fact, he witnessed those

sorts of events and did not try to do anything about that, then shame

on him. He should have. Where I was in Vietnam, I never experienced

people who acted like that, and I do not think we have men and women in

Iraq doing that now. They are there to do their duty. They are not

engaged in all those other activities he accused others of doing in

Vietnam, and I think that is a sad commentary.

That is right. And I was part of Operation New Life when

I was stationed on Guam. We had 130,000 refugees come on packed boats

so they

could get out of there and come to a better life. So, believe me, they

wanted to get out of there just as the Iraqis want the freedom we are

giving them.

One thing many Iraqis told me when I was there was, please do not cut

and run, because we had had such a habit of doing that. They were

afraid they would start supporting our efforts to free them and we

would back away and they would have to pay the penalty.

But this President is determined to get this thing done and get it

done right, and he is not going to cut and run. We have to stay the

course as long as it takes.

Stay steady.

Mr. Speaker, I really thank the gentleman from

California for his leadership. I hope the people in California's 52nd

District realize how fortunate they are to have a man of his caliber

representing them back here at this particular time in our history. The

gentleman understands it better than most because he is the parent of

one of these men that is involved in this battle. And there is nothing

like that to make one realize exactly what is important. So to the

gentleman and his wife, Lynn, we thank them; and we are sure Duncan

will come home very safely and very soon.