Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to

make a comment about what you just said about the New York Times

article. When you see what was said at the beginning there, written in

the New York Times, you immediately feel like, well, this young man was

saying, you know, this is something we should not be doing, and I am

just pushing my chances. But when you read the whole article, it is

clear that he thought the life that he was giving for the freedom of

those people was worth it.

Mr. Speaker, he said in the last part there: ``To me, that is why I

died. Others have died for my freedom. Now this is my mark.''

I mean, I cannot believe that there are distortions like that in the

media. It makes me just cringe when young men and women pay a price

like that and write to their loved ones why they are doing it and why

it was so important that they made that sacrifice and then have them be

mischaracterized by a newspaper that has a preconceived idea of what

ought to be done over there. It really, really bothers me.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, my colleague, Duncan Hunter, who is

the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, gave me this

Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to Sergeant First Class Paul R.

Smith of the United States Army. I was reading this and I was thinking

about the sacrifices that these young men and women have made to

protect people and to make sure that these people get the freedoms that

we have enjoyed for so long. It says: ``Sergeant First Class Smith

braved hostile enemy fire to personally engage the enemy with hand

grenades and anti-tank weapons and organized the evacuation of three

wounded soldiers from an armored personnel carrier struck by rocket-

propelled grenades and a 16-milimeter mortar rounds. Fearing the enemy

would overrun their defenses, Sergeant First Class Smith moved under

withering enemy fire to man a 50-caliber machine gun mounted on a

damaged armored personnel carrier. In total disregard for his own life,

he maintained his exposed position in order to engage the attacking

enemy force. During this action, he was mortally wounded. His

courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack and resulted in as

many as 50 enemy soldiers killed, while allowing the safe withdrawal of

numerous wounded soldiers. Sergeant First Class Smith's extraordinary

heroism and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions

of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the

Third Infantry Division, Rock of the Marne, and the United States

Army.''

Mr. Speaker, it really bothers me when I see people come down here

and start in one way, giving an offhanded compliment to our soldiers

and sailors and marines who are over there fighting and say, you know,

we really respect them; and then with the other hand they say, oh, we

ought to get out of there right now. We ought to withdraw tomorrow. We

ought to get everybody out of there, because this is a lost cause.

It is just not a lost cause. They went over there to do their duty

and to stop worldwide terrorism, and this is the focal point. It is

really bad that we have people in this body on the other side of the

aisle, in my opinion, that say, you know, they are doing a great job

and we really support them and, at the same time, the sacrifices that

have been made should be for naught, we ought to just bring them home.

We are in a world war against terrorism, a world war, and this is the

major battleground right now. The reason we are not being attacked in

large part here in the United States, in my opinion, is because these

young men and women are making these sacrifices over there, in the

middle of the storm, where terrorism has its genesis, where Iran and

Syria and other countries are supporting terrorism. They do not want

democracy to flourish over there, because they know their days will be

numbered if democracy succeeds. Our young men and women who are

fighting over there are making their days numbered, in my opinion.

I would like to just make one quote from Sir Winston Churchill, when

I think about my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and they

start talking about how we have to get out of there right now. Sir

Winston Churchill, who was one of the greatest leaders of the 20th

century, he said in a speech that he made entitle ``We Shall Fight on

the Beaches,'' which is very famous, he says: ``Wars are not won by

evacuations.'' You do not win by retreating.

The Iraqis now have almost 190,000 men in their armed services and

their police forces over there. They are taking up more and more of the

fight every single day. As soon as they become battle-ready and they

can protect themselves, you are going to see us starting to bring our

troops home. But we are not going to capitulate. Not under this

President, we are not, and not under the majority that we have in this

Congress.

Now, if the more liberal Members of this body want to cave in, if

they want to assuage the enemy and pat them on the back, then that is

what is going to be their legacy to this country and to this world; but

I do not want to be a part of that, and I do not think my colleagues on

this side of the aisle want to be a part of it either.

Let me just say one thing that is not being reported by the media

that should be, and it should be reported thoroughly and fully. Things

are getting better in Iraq. There are now 196,000 Internet subscribers.

There used to be almost none. Now there are 44 commercial television

stations. None existed under Saddam Hussein when he buried alive up to

100,000 people and killed over 400,000 people. There are more than 100

independent newspapers and magazines and 72 commercial radio stations.

None existed before under Saddam Hussein. There are now 3,404 public

schools, all kinds of projects, police and fire stations, health

facilities, and new reconstruction projects going on. Things are moving

in the right direction, but they are not being reported by the media in

this country.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. I would

just like to end by saying that the war against terrorism is one that

we cannot and must not lose, and our fighting men and women are paying

the supreme price over there right now, defending not only the rights

and freedoms of the people in Iraq and Afghanistan, but they are also

protecting us as well. So I would just like to say God bless them and

thank each and every one of them for what they are doing.