I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our Republican colleagues are correct. This

Congress spoke with one voice on the war on terrorism, and we continue

to do so. Indeed, if President Bush had pursued the war on terrorism

and the perpetrators of 9/11, instead of getting diverted to Iraq,

which had nothing to do with

9/11, then when he hoisted that ``Mission Accomplished'' banner four

years ago, it would have had meaning.

Instead, we have a burn rate of $10 billion every month in Iraq, $14

million every hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every week, every

month of the year. More importantly, the real burn rate is in the loss

of more than 3,300 American lives, brave men and women over there

fighting for our country; 96 percent of those deaths, almost all of

them, lost their life after President Bush declared ``Mission

Accomplished.''

Today, the President can veto our attempt to secure a safe, orderly,

phased redeployment of our troops from Iraq, but he can't veto reality.

Our troops are coming home. It's just a question of what price is paid

in blood and money before that happens.

The President talks about listening to the commanders and the

generals. I wonder if he was listening to General William Odom, the

former National Security Agency Director, last Saturday when he said

the President has let the Iraq war proceed on ``automatic pilot, making

no corrections in the face of accumulating evidence that his strategy

cannot be rescued.''

If the President had listened to the generals, we would never have

gone into Iraq in the first place. It was General Schwarzkopf who said,

we would become ``like [a] dinosaur in a tar pit.''

If he had listened to the generals like General Shinseki, if he had

insisted on going into Iraq, he would have sent enough troops to get

the job done and not turned over all those weapons dumps to be

converted into IEDs.

If he had listened to the generals, he would have provided our

veterans with the health care that they have earned and deserved

instead of subjecting them back here to the facilities and care they

found in the United States.

The generals who disagree with this President earn a new title:

Retired.