I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to interpret this debate. I have

heard the Speaker talk about redeployment and say that there is a lot

of discretion that is left to the administration. There is no

discretion. The dates of so-called redeployment are defined. You either

start going out July 1 or October 1. Redeployment means withdrawals.

If generals do not start redeploying, do not start withdrawing from

the battleground, you can bet Democratic leadership will be here

pulling them into hearings, asking them why they didn't saddle up their

brigades, their battalions and their divisions and start to move them

off the battlefield. So let's get this straight. This is about

withdrawing from the battlefield.

Listening to this debate, and listening to the controversy and the

statements by Democratic leadership that have preceded this vote today,

there is a constant theme: Somehow American soldiers and marines are

victims. They are victims of extended tours; they are victims, the last

gentleman said, they claim, of not getting enough health care. They are

people that have been victims in the war against terror.

Let me tell you, I have seen the timelines that are given, the 270

days for Marines, the 365 days. A number of them have gone through one,

two, three and sometimes four tours. Our Americans, and that includes

my son, who is deploying now for the third time, will not fail, they

will not crack, they will not stretch. They will hold, and they will

carry out this mission against terrorists.

We are right now in the second phase of a program we have used for 60

years to stand up free governments around the world. You stand up a

free government. We have done that.

Secondly, you stand up a military capable of protecting that free

government. That is a second stage. That is a stage we are in right

now.

Thirdly, we leave, because America doesn't covet anything that

another nation has.

We are in the second stage right now. It's tough, and it's difficult.

This is a tough, difficult mission, but it is a mission that we can

accomplish.

I am reminded, lastly, that the Speaker talked about stopping the

war. That is how she described this bill. The Democratic leadership

does not have the power to stop the war against terror. All they have

the power to do is to leave the battlefield. That would be a disaster

for the United States of America.