Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of visiting our troops in

Iraq last month. I asked General Casey, the commander of our troops,

how the political carping in Washington affected the troops. He

responded, It doesn't really affect the troops so much, but it really

grates on their families back home.

During Vietnam, I will never forget, as a young Air Force officer

flying combat, how much we despised the politicians in Washington who

were undermining the war effort. We visited the Iraqi leaders and Prime

Minister al Maliki said, Welcome to a free and democratic Iraq. He

said, Please tell the American people of our deep gratitude for the

sacrifices that your sons and daughters have made to give us our

freedom. He said, Please finish the job. Don't abandon us. Don't go

backward.

Mr. Speaker, I don't question the patriotism of our opponents in this

manner, just their judgment. The cause of freedom is too important to

quit. The world and the terrorists are watching. Let's not lose our

resolve.