Mr. Speaker, as we begin to commemorate and

celebrate the founding of this Nation, what a great Nation, July 4

brings all Americans together. We stand strong. We are bold and we are

proud. I am proud to be an American.

But I petition this government, this Congress, this President that we

must resolve the Iraq crisis. Our soldiers are defined as they are,

warriors for justice. But when you have a complete collapse of

government, as was evidenced in the last 24 hours, suicide bombs, car

bombs, an enormous toil and toll of lives being taken, our soldiers

emerged in neighborhoods, sitting as sitting ducks, it is time to bring

our troops home. And as long as we remain tone deaf to the American

people, we undermine the values of this Nation that indicates we all

are created equal.

It is time to bring our troops home from Iraq. It is time for a new

policy and a new direction.