Mr. Speaker, the headline in this morning's Washington

Post reads: ``Bush says War is Worth Sacrifice.'' Well, easy for him to

say, because he has not sacrificed a thing, unless you count his

sagging poll numbers.

This President needs to look into the eyes of more than 1,700 widows

or grieving mothers and fathers and tell them his preemptive war is

worth the sacrifice.

He needs to tell it to my friend Cindy Sheehan, who came to

Washington two weeks ago and spoke movingly about what it was like to

see her son Casey, lying in a coffin with the same lack of muscle tone

he had as a newborn infant 25 years before.

Casey Sheehan and his family were told there were weapons of mass

destruction. They were told Saddam Hussein was connected to the attacks

on America nearly 4 years ago. And long after that myth had been

debunked, President Bush still had the audacity to go before the

American people last night and raise the ``bloody flag of 9/11,'' as a

New York Times editorial put it.

I have been to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where the President

spoke last night. In fact, 3 months ago I spoke there at a peace rally

organized by a group called Iraq Veterans Against the War. Fayetteville

is actually home to a vibrant anti-war community. Not despite the fact

that it is home to Fort Bragg, but because it is a military stronghold.

With a majority of Americans turning against this war, it only makes

sense that those who have sacrificed the most for this war are also

opposed to it.

The President insisted last night that Iraq is the central front in

the war on terrorism, and it is true that terrorists are now flocking

to Iraq, like moths to a flame. But how did that happen? Iraq has

become a terrorist breeding ground because of President Bush's

premeditated, preemptive invasion of Iraq.

Every day that our soldiers are in Iraq is another day that the

insurgents are emboldened by their hatred for America. It is the

occupation itself that gives rise to the insurgency and inflames it,

putting our troops in more danger than ever.

Perhaps what is most galling about the President saying Iraq is worth

the sacrifice is that he and his administration do not truly honor that

sacrifice.

With their rhetoric, they do, perhaps, but what about their actions?

If they honored the sacrifice, surely they would have found a way to

get our soldiers the protective armor they need. And if they honored

the sacrifice, why are they coming up $1 billion short of what is

needed to deliver health care for our veterans?

We heard nothing new last night, no new information, no new plan, no

new explanation or justification for 1,700 plus dead, thousands

wounded, and over $200 billion squandered. It is time we showed our

support for the troops by removing them from harm's way, by ending this

disastrous war, by bringing them home to their families as soon as

possible.

But that is not good enough, Mr. Speaker. We need an entirely new

approach to defending America. Where is it written that a strong

national security policy must involve violence and bloodshed?

I have proposed a new plan called SMART Security. SMART stands for

Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism for the 21st

Century. Its guiding principle is that war should be the absolute last

resort. It would protect America through stronger global alliances, a

commitment to diplomacy, and vigorous weapons inspections. SMART would

also address the root causes of terrorism by confronting the poverty,

despair, and hopelessness that foster terrorism in the first place. And

it includes an ambitious international development agenda: democracy-

building, education, infrastructure projects, support for environmental

stewardship, and more, for the troubled, underdeveloped nations of the

world.

SMART is tough, pragmatic, and patriotic. It protects America by

relying on the very best of American values: our commitment to freedom,

our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for

multilateral leadership. SMART Security begins, in fact, and nothing

would be smarter, with a plan to bring our troops home.