Mr. Speaker, it is interesting, my colleague was just

talking about the President's speech tonight and I happen to disagree

with her. I thought it was a strong, resolute speech that we heard from

the President. America needs to hear from him and America needs to know

that this President will not cut and run. The world needs to know that

the Americans are not going to cut and run.

I think that for the past few months Americans, and probably a lot of

folks around the world, have heard far too much from the cut-and-run

caucus on this Hill. It is time that we make certain that they know we

are committed to freedom. We have a President that is not going to give

in to the terrorists, and that is exactly as it should be.

Some say that by being aggressive, that by taking this War on

Terrorism to the Middle East, that we are helping the terrorists and

helping the insurgent recruitment efforts. These nay-sayers count every

single person who goes out and joins and becomes a part of the

insurgency but, somehow, they forget something, and they forget this:

that as we are over there fighting and working to bring democracy and

freedom to Afghanistan and to Iraq, that there are hundreds of

thousands and millions of people that are joining us in working toward

freedom, working to build a democratic ally for our children there in

the Middle East, and that they are going to see a different life than

the hundreds of thousands that have found themselves in mass graves in

Afghanistan and in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it is also interesting that many times, those on the

left come in and they want to talk about a time line, give us a time

line. Tell us exactly when we are going to get out of there. I always

find that interesting, because many times I think that the liberals

want a time line because they want to control it. They want to know

exactly what is going to happen when, so they can micromanage it. Our

military leaders need the ability to make those decisions that need to

be made right there on the front lines. They do not need Congress

micromanaging this war.

Also, we do not need to tell the terrorists, this is what we are

going to do and this is when we are going to do it. We need to trust

that leadership of our military and we need to believe in those men and

women in uniform that are fighting.

My colleague also mentioned a trip that was made to Guantanamo Bay

this weekend. I was also on that trip, and I will tell my colleagues,

it is one of those things that kind of gets under my skin when I hear

them say progress is being made at Guantanamo Bay. That insinuates that

our men and women in uniform have done something wrong, and they have

not, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important that the Members of this

body, and also that the American people, know what Guantanamo Bay is

about.

Guantanamo Bay is a detention center, and in that detention center

are

held 520 enemy combatants. Now, an enemy combatant is not somebody that

got picked up for shoplifting or for running a traffic signal. An enemy

combatant is a person that has ties to known terrorist groups: the

Taliban, al Qaeda. They are people that have participated in trying to

tear us down. They are people that have participated in the September

11 attacks, the Khobar Towers, the first World Trade Center bombing.

That is what we have at Guantanamo Bay.

We hear that we should send them back to their country. There is a

reason we do not, and that is because an enemy combatant is not a

uniformed soldier in an Army fighting for a country. An enemy combatant

is a terrorist and, many times, we do not know what country they are

from. The reason we do not send them back is because there is not a

country that we are going to be sending them back to. It is an

important distinction that we need to make.

Mr. Speaker, as we go through this week, as we talk about the

President's remarks tonight, as we talk about the time at Guantanamo

Bay, it is important to remember that it is our men and women that we

need to thank for our freedom. It is their families we need to thank

for their support.