Mr. Speaker, as we consider the implications of the

debate about the photographs that our news media has been putting on

the front pages and on the TV screens, it is important that we begin to

calm down and to take a look at what we are doing and to remember why

we are in Iraq.

Frankly, as we hear the discussions about having the President

impeached and the Secretary of Defense resign, it is important for us

to remember that 9-11 changed everything. So soon we forget, Mr.

Speaker. 9-11 is the day that innocent civilians in this country went

to work in the morning expecting they would come home to their families

that night. 9-11 was the day that this body convened for its normal

business. 9-11 was the day soccer moms became security moms, worried

about the safety of their children in the streets. And President Bush

said that he would fight terror; that if you harbored a terrorist, you

were a terrorist; if you funded a terrorist, you were a terrorist; if

you allowed them to pass through your country, you were a terrorist.

And, Mr. Speaker, he has been solid and resolute about that commitment.

No matter how despicable the acts of our soldiers in Abu Ghraib

prison, they remain the actions of just a few. They do not reflect the

majority opinion. They do not reflect American values, and they do not

reflect what is going on in Iraq. Because there are magnificent tales

of sacrifice and commitment going on in Iraq.

For those people who wonder why the Secretary of Defense should not

step down, it has not been that long ago, Mr. Speaker, that we saw

Rodney King in those famous videos where members of the Los Angeles

Police Department were beating him. That circumstance did not reflect

the policemen in L.A. any more than our current actions reflect our

soldiers in Iraq. To put it in perspective, we should have, if we want

equivalent actions, have called for the Governor of California to step

down.

Secretary Rumsfeld is a tremendous political and military leader. If

we look at the advances and the accomplishments that have occurred, to

suggest change at this point in this war begins to seem irresponsible.

Al Qaeda is completely uprooted and on the move. Thousands of al Qaeda

members are dead or in prison. The Taliban is gone from Afghanistan.

Saddam Hussein sits in a prison cell. We have over 40 of his top

officials in prison cells awaiting trial. Libya has begun to give up

its weapons of mass destruction, its nuclear weapons. Pakistan worked

with us on the Afghanistan border fighting terror. Worldwide, we are

seeing terrorists captured and imprisoned by the network of people on

the side of good and against evil.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary Rumsfeld is greatly responsible for the

actions that are positive and that show that we are winning the war on

terror. And to suggest that he step down is irresponsible.

But we must also consider what it is going to take to win this war on

terror. It is going to take valor, valor like that of Pat Tilghman, who

gave up a lucrative career to go serve his country. It is going to take

sacrifice, like a young helicopter pilot from my district who died in a

night crash in Afghanistan. It is going to take courage, because this

is going to be a long fight, Mr. Speaker. And if we are going to run

right now, I will guarantee you that we will not win this war on

terror, and that every American life will be affected. And those soccer

moms who became security moms will have been justified in their fears,

and they will have been let down by the leadership of this country,

many of whom are calling for the President to come back home and to

leave that fight.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to the people of this country and to the free

people in the entire world to stand our ground and to fight and to have

the resolute intent to see that this war on terror is won. Mr. Speaker,

I cast my lot on the side of those people who will fight this war, who

will see that liberty triumphs over tyranny and over terrorism.