Mr. Speaker, depending on whom you listen to, the

insurgents in Iraq are either in their last throes or they are growing

in size and strength. But both the administration and critics seem to

agree that the U.S. military will be deployed to Iraq for a long time

to come. It is our quagmire.

Every day our forces wake up in Iraq, more die and are wounded, and

more families on the home front are strained and suffer losses. At some

terrible point in the future, the Nation's leaders will say, Enough is

enough. Whether the number of casualties at that point will be 5,000 or

10,000 or 50,000, I do not know. Whether the cost at that point will be

$250 billion, $350 billion, or $500 billion, I do not know. At some

point, the terrible arithmetic of the war will add up to overwhelm

everybody.

But this war can end another way. It can end if enough Members of

Congress consider and cosponsor House Joint Resolution 55, a bipartisan

bill introduced last week to require the President to initiate troop

withdrawal no later than October 1, 2006. Thank the troops, and bring

them home.