Madam Speaker, 4 years ago, President Bush used soldiers

and sailors as stage props to

Those combat operations indeed, should have ended, in

fact, they should never have begun. This combat was constitutionally

and strategically unjustifiable, operationally poorly executed with

regard to armoring and deploying the troops, and politically and

diplomatically disastrous.

This war is not making anyone safer or more free and it cannot be won

militarily. As retired General Odom said,

The President continues to squander American influence, blood and

treasure. The President's intransigence is why our Congress was forced

to pass a spending bill that forces a change in course in Iraq. The

President needs to know that the days of congressional blank checks in

support of a failed policy are over.