In conjunction with what my colleague has already

said, can you imagine that of the amount of money we spend in Iraq, we

could put in place 4,072,709 additional housing units nationwide? In

Ohio, we could put 142,849. Imagine this, right in the city of

Cleveland where we have 2,185 homeless, we could take care of them and

they would not have to be homeless.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield time to my colleague

and good friend who has been at the forefront of issues around this

war, the Congresswoman from California, Congresswoman Barbara Lee. And

I yield to her 5 minutes.

Thank you, Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

Quick statistics. Of the young men and women who have been killed in

Iraq, total 3,734, 885 were less than 22; 1,013 were between 22 and 24;

1,007 between the age of 25 and 30; 445 between the age of 31 and 35;

and older than 35, 445

It gives me great pleasure at this time to yield to my good friend

and colleague from the great State of California, the Chair of the Out

of Iraq Caucus, Congresswoman Maxine Waters for such time as she may

consume.

I'd like to thank Congresswoman Waters for her

statement.

For the Record, I have a statement from Congresswoman Eddie Bernice

Johnson to be submitted for the Record.

Listen to these statistics. Of the percentage of persons serving in

the military, 60 percent are white, 23 percent are African American, 10

percent are Hispanic, 3 Asian American Pacific. Of those serving in the

Navy, 62 percent are Caucasian, 19 percent are African American. Those

serving in the Air Force, 72 percent are Caucasian, 15 percent are

African American, in the Marine Corps, 66 percent are Caucasian, 12 are

African American.

Let's look at the statistics with regard to deaths as a result of

this Iraq war. Of the 3,734 who have been killed in this war, 40 are

American Indian or Alaska Native, 69 Asian, 350 African Americans, 405

Hispanic, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 440.

Totally in 2007, Caucasian, a total of 3,734.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure at this point to yield to my

colleague and good friend from the great State of Texas, Congresswoman

Sheila Jackson-Lee.

Thank you, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee of

Texas.

Did you know that there are proportionately more African American and

proportionately fewer white servicemen in the military than in the

comparable civilian workforce? In other words, there are greater

numbers of African Americans serving in the military than in the

workforce of the United States of America. That presents a problem.

I will go on with other statistics as the hour goes along, but it

gives me great pleasure to yield to my colleague and friend from the

great State of Georgia, the gentleman, David Scott.

I want to thank my colleague, the newest Member

of the Congressional Black Caucus, who has joined us in the House,

Congresswoman Laura Richardson, from the great State of California, who

has joined us on the floor this evening, for her support. I also want

to thank my staffer, Aaron Wasserman, for his work and research.

Let me close out this Special Order with a few more statistics and a

couple of statements. Can you imagine this: The amount of money that

we've spent on the Iraq war so far, 270,850,440 children could benefit

from receiving health insurance for 1 year. In addition, a Census

Bureau news release stated that 8.7 million uninsured children in 2006

could be insured for 31 years with the amount of money that has been

used in the Iraq war. The number of 4-year scholarships that could be

provided, 21,927,497 scholarships could be provided to the children of

the United States nationwide if we used the money from Iraq.

And let's talk about, for a moment, the cost to the people of Iraq. A

recent article by the Washington Post has said that Iraq needs 10,000

megawatts of electricity per day, but they're only producing 4,110. In

civilian casualties, since April of 2004, the average number of Iraqis

killed per day has grown from just over 20 to over 100. The total

number of Iraqi casualties is estimated to be between 70,264 and

150,000 people.

I am so pleased and honored to have an opportunity to be on the floor

leading this Special Order on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I personally am opposed to any permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq,

and no control by the U.S. of Iraqi oil. I am opposed to the surge. The

benchmarks not being met are, the GAO says three of 18 were not met,

and I am opposed to continued funding for the surge.

There is no military solution to this war, and only political and

diplomatic solutions will actually work. We should not arm Iraqi

security forces when the United States leaves, and we should not leave

behind weapons that can be used to perpetuate violence. We have a moral

obligation to help with Iraqi national reconciliation and

reconstruction.

I've been a Member of Congress now for 9 years, and I never thought

when I ran for Congress that I would have the responsibility or

obligation of attending deployments or attending funerals of my

constituents, but as a Member of Congress I see it as my obligation.

I'm so happy that even though I oppose this war, that I have a chance

to go and meet with many of the Army Reservists and National Guards who

have been deployed from my congressional district, and go to them with

their families and say to them that I pray for their safe return, that

when they return from their mission over in Iraq and Afghanistan, that

they all come back.

I remember one of the deployments I took a flag that I had flown over

the Capitol and gave it to these young men. And I said, I pray that you

will bring my flag back. I want you to fly it every day, but when you

come back, bring it back, but bring every member of your group back

with you. And you know what? They brought me my flag back, and every

one of the members of that troop came back home. It was a wonderful

thing. But I've witnessed the death of a 19-year-old, Officer Sloan.

I've witnessed the death of a 38-year-old. I've witnessed the death of

so many young men and women as a result of this particular war.

And I say to the American people who are listening to our Special

Order this evening, the Congressional Black Caucus believes and argues

to the American people that you need to step up your protests. If you

believe that this war is not correct and that our troops need to come

home, you need to tell somebody. You just can't sit in your chair and

be an armchair quarterback. You can't sit back and not say anything.

The people, the Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives and the

Senate needs to hear from you. The President needs to hear from you to

let him know that we do not support his continued effort over in Iraq.

I am pleased, as I said, to be a part of this Special Order. I am

pleased to represent the finest congressional district in the United

States of America, the 11th Congressional District of Ohio. And I thank

all of my constituents for writing, calling, e-mailing, faxing and

saying to me, Congresswoman, it is your job to stand up and oppose this

war. And ladies and gentlemen of Cleveland and northeast Ohio, that is

what I'm doing.