. Madam Speaker, one of the truest statements about the

occupation of Iraq was uttered by one of our own generals.

The commander of U.S. troops in Iraq, General David Petraeus, said

that there is no military solution in Iraq. In his own words, and I

quote him

I ask all of us, Is this another case of the President not listening

to his top brass? When is he going to learn that, despite the brave and

courageous efforts of our men and women in uniform, we cannot bomb, we

cannot shoot our way to peace in Iraq?

General Petraeus even said that we should be refocusing our

diplomatic efforts in and around Iraq, saying that talks should

include, and I quote him again,

I applaud him for his candor. He sees what is going on on the ground.

He knows that the current approach is just not working.

The men and women under his command have given so much for this

misguided occupation. They went in without armor they needed for their

Humvees and even for their own bodily protection. They went in looking

for weapons of mass destruction that did not work out too well. They

went in to accomplish a mission that was not clearly defined, and there

was no exit plan. How can we ask our troops to continue down this road?

The Bush administration, as we have seen in the reports about Walter

Reed, has even failed our troops when they come home. Shame on the

President. Shame on Veterans Affairs Secretary Nicholson. This is not

the way to care for those who have given so very much.

The American people know what to do, even if lawmakers are slow to

act. Overwhelming numbers in poll after poll say that we need to bring

our troops home and end this disastrous foray into foreign policy. And

we just don't need the polls to tell us that. Look at the calls, look

at the letters, look at the e-mails that come into our offices. People

are demanding that the White House wake up to reality and put an end to

this mission, a mission that was not accomplished.

The best way to honor the legacy of those who have given their lives

in this occupation is to bring our troops home and work with the

international community to strengthen and promote security in Iraq. It

is the mandate from the American people, and it is the Congress's moral

obligation.