Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from

Missouri, for yielding.

This is a very, very important subject. We, the members of the House

Armed Services Committee, support our troops and we are for victory in

Iraq, Afghanistan, and in the global war on terror. We welcome the

recent good news. We are glad that they took out Zarqawi. But there is

more work to be done.

I also serve on the House Committee on the Budget. I am particularly

interested that we pay for this war, that we do not borrow the money to

support our troops from China and Iran and nations like that because

those nations are increasingly large creditors of our country at a

crucial time when we do face a global war on terror.

And where are we getting so much of this money to fund this war? From

foreign nations. Where are the war bonds for this war? Where are we

borrowing from our own people to pay for this war? What are we paying

with for our troops? It is simply not being done by this

administration.

But I am joined tonight by two outstanding military veterans who are

also members of the House Armed Services Committee. First to speak is

the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Solomon Ortiz, who has got terrific

experience not only in the military but in preparing our troops for

war.