Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentlewoman from Texas who just preceded me

stated, we just completed a memorial dedication remembrance ceremony on

the steps of the Capitol as Members on both sides of the aisle came

together led by our distinguished Speaker, our distinguished majority

leader, and our distinguished minority leader. We came together in a

very bipartisan way to once again pay tribute to the lives that were

lost, indeed, and to their families, and to our first responders and

the lives that were lost on their part and, of course, the City of New

York on that great tragic day, that

great tragedy that occurred 6 years ago today, Mr. Speaker.

Before we went to the steps, the majority leader made a statement to

our colleagues on this floor, which I fully support and endorse. I

paraphrase his comments, but basically what Mr. Hoyer said to us, just

a few minutes ago, was that the terrorists, the extremists, those who

hate our way of life and hate everything about this country, our great

country, brought us to our knees, but they didn't bring us down. And

they will never bring us down.

I absolutely agree that it showed the resolve of the American people

that they can't bring us down. They got our attention, absolutely. And,

Mr. Speaker, today, of course, also is the day that General Petraeus,

the commander of Multinational Force Iraq, the four-star general, the

combatant commander on the ground in Iraq, along with our ambassador to

Iraq, Ryan Crocker, gave their report to the American Congress, to the

House of Representatives, they will do the same thing over the next

couple of days to the Senate, and directed this report to the House

Armed Services Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, there were 111 Members of those two respective

committees present for this hearing today, which went on almost 7

hours. It was an opportunity for Members on both sides of the aisle to

come together to listen carefully to a report that we mandated in our

emergency supplemental spending bill that was passed March of this

year, some 6 months ago.

Mr. Speaker, the thing that bothered me about this report was that in

this town, last week, in this Congress, indeed, we heard nothing but

negative comments about the messenger and what he might bring in regard

to this report to suggest that it would be less than honest. Mr.

Speaker, the New York Times today ran an article that basically showed

a picture of General Petraeus and said, underneath the caption of that

picture, General Petraeus is General Betray Us, to suggest, Mr.

Speaker, that this general, our combatant commander of Multinational

Force Iraq, would lie to the American people for some political

advantage.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I want to yield to my friend from

Mississippi. I think that he may have a copy with him of that

particular ad. I will be happy now to yield to the gentleman from

Mississippi (Mr. Wicker).

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from

Mississippi before I yield to my colleagues, the gentleman from

Minnesota and also the gentleman from Tennessee. But I thank the

gentleman firstly from Mississippi for bringing that New York Times ad

so that our colleagues on the floor can see just how despicable this

is. Now, at the bottom, you can't see the fine print, but moveon.org

disavows itself from any political affiliation.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to give the Members of this body an

opportunity to repudiate that ad. I have introduced a resolution. I

understand our leadership on the Republican side will have a resolution

to just say to the Members, please, in a bipartisan way, this cannot

stand, and we cannot tolerate this. I think we will get an overwhelming

show of support for that resolution.

I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

The gentleman is so, so right. Here we are talking about

a four-star general, West Point graduate, 35 years of military service,

third rotation in Iraq, to have to put up with that kind of despicable

attack. And, like I say, we are going to give our colleagues on both

sides of the aisle an opportunity to repudiate that, which I am sure

they will.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Tennessee,

Mr. Wamp.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee,

because he knows of what he speaks and he speaks it well.

You know, this situation with the ad that the gentleman from

Mississippi so kindly brought to the floor so all of our colleagues who

may not have seen it in the newspaper this morning would have an

opportunity to know exactly of what we are speaking about tonight, the

gentleman from Tennessee suggested that sometimes people want somebody

else to do their dirty work.

Mr. Speaker, look at this first slide to my left. Here is the quote:

``No one wants to call Petraeus a liar on national TV, noted one

Democratic Senator, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The

expectation is that the outside groups will do this for us.''

This was last week, an anonymous Democratic Senator being interviewed

by Politico.com.

Well, lo and behold, it looks like one these outside groups indeed

are doing the dirty work of calling General Petraeus ``General Betray

Us.'' How despicable.

As I said just a few minutes earlier, Mr. Speaker, we are talking

about a gentleman, a patriot, a great leader who has served this

country honorably and selflessly for over 35 years. He has risked his

life in combat. He accepted lengthy deployments away from his family to

defend our Nation and its citizens from its enemies.

For this, Mr. Speaker, he deserves the respect, the admiration and

gratitude of every single American, and not disgraceful slander from

despicable groups like moveon.org. Is that Phil Gingrey coming up with

an original statement? No. I am quoting Senator Joe Lieberman. God

bless Senator Lieberman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to our distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman

from North Carolina, Virginia Foxx.

I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina with such

prescient words she brings to us.

I want to bring my colleagues' attention to the next poster I have

got. I am going to give two quotes, one from General Petraeus from the

hearing today and the other from Ambassador Crocker.

First from General Petraeus: ``To summarize, the security situation

in Iraq is improving, and Iraqi elements are slowly taking on more of

the responsibility for protecting their citizens. Innumerable

challenges lie ahead. However, coalition and Iraqi security forces have

made progress towards achieving sustainable security. As a result, the

United States will be in a position to reduce its forces in Iraq in the

months ahead.'' That was from the testimony of General David Petraeus.

Later in the hour we will talk a little more about specific

recommendations for troop withdrawal that General Petraeus made.

I will read that quote from Ambassador Crocker in just a minute, but

at this point I see my friend from Mississippi is still with us, and I

would like to yield to him, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr.

Wicker).

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi. The

gentleman is right, I was having a little trouble finding that poster

because I don't have that poster; but I do have a smaller copy of it. I

guess you would call this a slide, Mr. Speaker.

But I did want to read this quote from the testimony of Ambassador

Crocker before I call on my colleague, Colonel John Kline. Here is what

Ambassador Crocker said: ``A secure, stable democratic Iraq at peace

with its neighbors is attainable. In my judgment, the cumulative

trajectory of political, economic and diplomatic developments in Iraq

is upwards, although the slope of that line is not steep. The process

will not be quick. It will be uneven, punctuated by setbacks as well as

achievements, and it will require substantial United States resolve and

commitment.''

I think the ambassador and General Petraeus served this country

extremely well today in their testimony, and their facts were accurate.

Mr. Speaker, with that I want to yield to my colleague on the House

Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. Kline).

The point you made, of course, about the Iraqi national

police, General Jones, you're right. I was in that same hearing with

Representative Kline last week, Mr. Speaker, and General Jones did talk

about this Iraqi national police force of about 25,000 that in the past

was rife with corruption, and of course, a lot of changes in the

leadership, as General Petraeus pointed out today, that has occurred.

But I think it's important, and I think Mr. Kline would agree with

me, for our colleagues to understand that the press in the last week,

talking about the Jones report, suggested that the entire Iraqi

security force was incompetent and corrupt when, indeed, 49,000 is only

about 10 percent of the 550,000 Iraqi national army and combined police

force. So many of them are doing a good job, as you pointed out in the

hearing today.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would have time to stay, I

would be glad to yield back to him as we go forward, but absolutely

this Jones report last week, I couldn't believe what I was reading the

next day after hearing the report and hearing General Jones, retired

Four-Star General Jones, Marine, former Marine commandant, and Colonel

Kline, a Marine, knows him well. He was one of 20 members of that

commission.

Again, this commission was created by the Congress, by the new

majority, as we passed that emergency supplemental spending bill back

in February or March, 6 or 8 months ago, to tell us, you know, what's

the situation with the Iraqi security force, both army and the police,

and not just, as we pointed out earlier, the national police.

And almost to a person, the members of that panel who spoke, not all

20 did, but they gave encouraging news. They pointed out the

shortcomings, of course, of the national police and the Iraqi police

force that was not perfect. They didn't give us some Pollyanna,

glossed-over, varnished report. They told the truth. But as Colonel

Kline points out, I thought it was an encouraging report. Of course,

you would never have known it, Mr. Speaker, by the headlines the next

day. So the gentleman may want to comment on that.

In fact, I think General Petraeus said that that Marine

expeditionary unit will be brought home next month.

I thank the gentleman again.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield to one of my

colleagues, another of my colleagues I should say, on the House Armed

Services Committee, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight

Investigation, a new subcommittee, a good subcommittee chaired by my

good friend, majority member Dr. Vic Snyder, and I'm speaking of the

gentleman from Missouri, Representative Todd Akin, and at this time I'd

yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Light at the end of the tunnel, indeed. The gentleman is

right on target.

As we conclude this Special Order hour, I want my colleagues to take

a good look at this ad that ran today in the New York Times.

I know it's hard for the Members to actually see the text, or you can

see the picture; but, basically, what it says, the caption is:

``General Petraeus or General Betray Us?'' With a big question mark.

Then under that: ``Cooking the books for the White House.''

The first and last paragraph, I will quote, let me read this to you,

this is what MoveOn.org, a political action committee says.

I hope not, I say to the gentleman from Missouri. I

think if you look at their funding trail though you would find that

they haven't contributed probably too much support in any way, shape,

or form to Republican Members.

But hears what they say about General Petraeus: ``General Petraeus is

a military man constantly at war with the facts. In 2004, just before

the election, he said there was 'tangible progress' in Iraq and that

`Iraqi leaders are stepping forward.'

``And last week Petraeus, the architect of the escalation of troops

in Iraq, said `We say we have achieved progress, and we are obviously

going to do everything we can to build on that progress.' ''

Then their final paragraph, I skipped the middle one, they say:

``Most importantly, General Petraeus will not admit what everyone

knows: Iraq is mired in an unwinnable religious civil war. We may hear

of a plan to withdraw a few thousand American troops.

``But we won't hear what Americans are desperate to hear: a timetable

for withdrawing all our troops, General Petraeus has actually said,

will need to stay in Iraq for as long as 10 years.''

Finally, they say, MoveOn.org, today, before Congress and before the

American people, General Petraeus is likely to become General Betray

Us.

In conclusion, as the majority leader said a few minutes ago, before

we walked out on the steps, to commemorate and honor the American

people on the sixth anniversary of that tragedy of 9/11, we did that in

a bipartisan way. This is not a political argument that we bring to the

floor tonight, and this business, if we are winning in Iraq, the

Democrats lose. If we are losing in Iraq, the Democrats win. If we are

winning in Iraq, the Republicans win. This is not about who wins

politically. This is for the American people.

We are going to win. We are going to let victory have a chance. We

are not just simply blindly staying the course.

In regard to this surge, this is exactly what the Iraq Study Group,

Lee Hamilton and former Secretary James Baker, recommended to the

Congress; and this is what the President has done.

I commend him for it. I think we are making progress; but there is,

indeed, as the gentleman from Missouri said, light at the end of the

tunnel, a bright light. We need to give victory a chance.