COMMENDING THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL’S EFFORTS AT SUPPORTING PEACE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we begin an unjust invasion of Iraq, I think that it is appropriate that this chamber hears from citizens and leaders on the local level, and not just the representatives of the Administration.

Last week, on March 12, 2003, the New York City Council courageously passed resolution 549-A, condemning current plans for an invasion of Iraq. They did so representing their constituents, who have made it abundantly clear through letters, faxes, emails and public protests, that the costs are too great and the evidence too suspect to support an invasion. The resolution represents the voice of the people of our great city.

I applaud the majority of the members of the Council for their principled fight for peace and diplomacy. I commend them for resisting the tempting severity of silence and risk being unfairly labeled and misunderstood as “unpatriotic.”

We live in a time where no one wants to challenge our foreign policy decisions for fear of being perceived not supportive of freedom or of our brave men and women who poised for the defense of our nation. I believe in the story of our nation as written in its constitution where elected leaders were at the time that this fateful decision between war and international cooperation was made, it will be clear that it was the City Council of New York who stood strongly as voices for peace.

I invite you to read excerpts of their resolution, so that it can be clear why the elected representatives of the citizens of the City of New York, still recovering from the attack of September 11, believe that real peace and democracy should be secured by law, not force.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL’S RESOLUTION URGENCY FOR MEDITATION RESTRANK IN IRAQ

Resolution calling on the government of the United States to make all efforts to work through the United Nations Security Council in a manner that would reaffirm our Nation’s commitment to the rule of law and the primacy of human rights in our international relationships, and to take all appropriate steps toward securing the participation of other nations and international organizations in the United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and the means for their development have failed.

Resolved, That the government of the United States should make all efforts to work through the United Nations Security Council in a manner that would reaffirm our Nation’s commitment to the rule of law and the primacy of human rights in our international relationships, and should take all appropriate steps toward securing the participation of other nations and international organizations in the United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and the means for their development have failed.

IN MEMORY OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS SLOCUM OF THORNTON, CO

HON. MARK UDALL OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I learned today that Colorado has suffered its first casualty in the war on Iraq. Lance Corporal Thomas Slocum was one of nine Marines killed near Al Nasiriyah on Sunday.