

**Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney Statement on H. Con. Res. 248 –
a resolution directing the President to remove the United States Armed
Forces from Afghanistan
March 10, 2010**

Madam Speaker:

For years, the mission in Afghanistan was poorly defined and managed by the Bush Administration-- despite the 9/11 attacks having been perpetrated by those trained and based in Afghanistan. Still, President Bush diverted attention and resources to Iraq, misleading the American people and Congress as to the true source of the threat to our nation and the world.

After considerable and careful review of military options in Afghanistan, President Obama submitted to the American people a sober assessment of the realities on the ground and a plan to end U.S. involvement. I believe that the President is committed to ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I support his efforts, but I believe we must expedite his timetable.

Undoubtedly, our brave men and women in uniform have fought well and deserve our full support and commitment to return them home safely to their families and loved ones.

Our troops have fought with honor and professionalism in the face of great challenges, and at great cost - I am truly humbled by their service and sacrifice.

While I support the President and our military leadership in bringing this war to a responsible end, I believe the time has come to send a message that the United States cannot sustain an open-ended commitment in Afghanistan. I believe the resolution before us sends that message.

That is why I vote in favor of the resolution today.