

of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF IRAQI SOVEREIGNTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the 1-year anniversary of Iraqi sovereignty, I would like to take the time to express my gratitude and appreciation for the men and women of the United States military who are fighting for freedom in Iraq and around the world, both those still fighting and those who have fallen. These soldiers of liberty are following the tradition of what Franklin Delano Roosevelt described as "the greatest arsenal of democracy."

From Bunker Hill to Gettysburg, and from the beaches of Normandy to the rice paddies of Vietnam, no nation has lost so many in the name of liberty. Indeed, never before in the history of mankind has one people acted to free so many of the world's oppressed, both within and beyond its borders.

America does not fight for land, glory or riches. No, Mr. Speaker, we fight to free those who live on the land, to spread the bounties of freedom, and

to bring the riches of liberty to those who cannot do the job alone. So it has been, and so it is in Iraq. Our brave soldiers and support personnel are engaged in a battle as important as any the United States has ever before waged, for the success of democracy in Iraq is a crucial test of the ideals this Nation was founded upon.

Our founding texts all proclaim freedom's universalism. Liberty is not the unique right of Americans or even Westerners, but is mankind's right. Indeed, it is a right that according to our Declaration of Independence is unalienable.

We went to Iraq because Saddam Hussein's dictatorship was a threat to his neighbors, the Middle East, the United States and his own people. We remain in Iraq because we know that sometimes liberty needs some nursing before it can grow on its own. We have not abandoned other people of the world after their liberation, and we will not abandon Iraq. We will continue fighting for freedom's survival.

And while we know that the men and women who are lost to freedom's cause will never be forgotten, that knowledge can never fully heal the pain of their families. The hole left in their lives by their lost loved-one can never be fully filled. Still, from their sacrifice, much solace can be taken.

In times of war, it is often best to look to our history to see how past generations of Americans dealt with the loss of their countrymen in just causes. During the civil war, the most trying time in this Nation's history, hundreds of thousands of families lost their sons as they tried to save the union.

At the height of the casualties, President Lincoln sought to reassure a wounded nation. The Gettysburg address was a clarion call to those who heard his immortal words. In memory of the soldiers lost at the Battle of Gettysburg, Lincoln delivered the greatest 2 minutes in American oratorical history.

The speech's poignancy may never again be matched, as in just over 20 words Lincoln honored the dead for their service, ensured that their sacrifice would not be in vain, and captured the essence of the American experiment.

But I am afraid that too often Lincoln's words are forgotten, so I would like to read them aloud now so that all Members might hear them and take them to heart when considering our current conflict. For Lincoln's words are as true for our lost men and women in Iraq as they were for the fallen at Gettysburg:

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new Nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a

great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place for those who died here that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground.

"The brave men, living and dead who struggled here have hallowed it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

This is the most appropriate part: "It is rather for us the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the Earth."

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled by Lincoln's words. And while I cannot match their eloquence, I can heed their meaning. From the commitment of the fallen in Iraq, I will take increased devotion to the cause of liberty, the cause for which they fought, and I hope so too will all Members of this body.

President Lincoln used the Gettysburg address to honor the dead not by shirking from conflict, but rather by issuing a clarion call to continue fighting in their stead.

As we approach the Fourth of July, it is fitting that we celebrate Iraq's fledgling democracy, and remember those who fought for freedom's dawn there, and in other parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the men and women of our Armed Forces, and hope they will return home soon with the knowledge that they have served in the tradition of America's Great Emancipator, and brought freedom to those who would otherwise never have known its glories.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INVESTIGATING GUANTANAMO DETENTION CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, whenever we approach this microphone in this institution, we do it with the greatest of respect. I respect my colleague who just spoke of the great duty and service given to America by the men and women on the front lines all over the world, but in this instance, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This weekend I had the opportunity to see another fine example of servicemen and women, soldiers and sailors, working together at Guantanamo. But as we respect and appreciate their service, I have also had the opportunity to engage in conversation with these brave young men and women, Reservists, National Guard, and the one thing they understand is that what they are fighting for is freedom, and they are fighting for the availability and the opportunity for there to be public disagreement, dissent. That is the basis of our Constitution. That is why we love America.

So I rise today to simply raise questions; to applaud the improvement that has occurred in Guantanamo, but also to suggest that there needs to be transparency, there needs to be an understanding that there was a before and now an after. We need to be able to investigate thoroughly allegations of inappropriate behavior, abuse, by those in the FBI, the media and non-governmental agencies, to be able to clear the stain that might be on those who are working hard now.

A bipartisan commission could investigate by way of talking to the detainees; understand fully what the military tribunals mean and how they operate; whether or not detainees have a right to counsel; why they are being held indefinitely; why there are no charges; why there has not been a prosecution and a conviction; and to emphasize the Rasul case, which talks about access to the courts through habeas corpus proceedings.

Again, what I said very clearly is progress has been made, and I applaud that progress. But progress will be greatly made if we have an understanding through a bipartisan process of what Guantanamo means, and ultimately to prosecute the bad and horrific terrorists, for none of us want to see terrorists released. But for those who are able to return home, to be detained at home, to be held at home, to be kept off the battlefield so that those in Guantanamo do not pose a threat to our soldiers on the battlefield and to be held against them if they happen to be caught by the enemy.

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I ask for a simple point that freedom means airing, freedom means the opportunity to ask questions and to get answers. I say that again tonight, as we heard the President speak to the American people.

First, I applaud the fact that the President has come to the American people; it is something that I have asked for time and time again. But, Mr. Speaker, let me simply say this: we need a success strategy in order to be able to have our troops come home. It is not a cut-and-run strategy, and I resent the interpretation that those of us who have asked for a success strategy that will bring dignity and respect to our troops and freedom to the Iraqi people are in any way cutting and running.

The strategies that the President offered tonight do not lead us on that pathway. The relating of the war in Iraq to the 9/11 tragedy, the horrific terrorist act, does not comport, if you will. We are fighting a War on Terror. We need all of our allies to help us fight it. We need the Iraqis, we need the Jordanians, we need the Saudi Arabians, we need all of them. But this ongoing conflict and war in Iraq with our soldiers entrenched where the Iraqi people and the Iraqi government has not reached out to diversify their government to include the Sunnis, to make sure that they are fighting collectively against the bad elements in a unified force, that is what is keeping us from peace. Embedding our soldiers and Iraqi forces is a good military strategy, but it is not a political end to this war. And, yes, we are looking for the writing of a Constitution, the voting on a Constitution, but we need a success strategy, a time that we can look toward for our troops to be able to come home.

It would be well to give military strategies that include training our national Iraqi forces, which I agree with, and I offered an amendment on the Floor of the House, working with conferees on the Defense Appropriation, to ensure that that occurs. I support the Skelton-Harman bill that talks about reinforcing the Iraqi forces, but that is not a success strategy. Again, there is no fear to being able to talk about the time of our troops coming home, acknowledging the brave stand that they have taken and the success that they have had in initially toppling Saddam Hussein.

I disagreed with this war from the beginning because I believed that it was not a constitutional war because Congress had not declared war. But I am prepared to work with the President now, to work with our colleagues in order to develop a success strategy that comes with honor and dignity.

What we had tonight leaves us empty because, in fact, I would hope that we could believe that the insurgency would go down. But we cannot expect that, in the backdrop of Secretary Rumsfeld clearly saying that the insurgents would be active for 12 years, and tonight we did not hear any solution to the violence of the insurgents. I believe that with the presence of military forces with the United States there, the insurgents will continue to rise.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to bring peace to this crisis in Iraq. We cannot do it without an effective success strategy for our troops and for America.

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR PEACE IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting, my colleague was just

talking about the President's speech tonight and I happen to disagree with her. I thought it was a strong, resolute speech that we heard from the President. America needs to hear from him and America needs to know that this President will not cut and run. The world needs to know that the Americans are not going to cut and run.

I think that for the past few months Americans, and probably a lot of folks around the world, have heard far too much from the cut-and-run caucus on this Hill. It is time that we make certain that they know we are committed to freedom. We have a President that is not going to give in to the terrorists, and that is exactly as it should be.

Some say that by being aggressive, that by taking this War on Terrorism to the Middle East, that we are helping the terrorists and helping the insurgent recruitment efforts. These naysayers count every single person who goes out and joins and becomes a part of the insurgency but, somehow, they forget something, and they forget this: that as we are over there fighting and working to bring democracy and freedom to Afghanistan and to Iraq, that there are hundreds of thousands and millions of people that are joining us in working toward freedom, working to build a democratic ally for our children there in the Middle East, and that they are going to see a different life than the hundreds of thousands that have found themselves in mass graves in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it is also interesting that many times, those on the left come in and they want to talk about a time line, give us a time line. Tell us exactly when we are going to get out of there. I always find that interesting, because many times I think that the liberals want a time line because they want to control it. They want to know exactly what is going to happen when, so they can micromanage it. Our military leaders need the ability to make those decisions that need to be made right there on the front lines. They do not need Congress micromanaging this war.

Also, we do not need to tell the terrorists, this is what we are going to do and this is when we are going to do it. We need to trust that leadership of our military and we need to believe in those men and women in uniform that are fighting.

My colleague also mentioned a trip that was made to Guantanamo Bay this weekend. I was also on that trip, and I will tell my colleagues, it is one of those things that kind of gets under my skin when I hear them say progress is being made at Guantanamo Bay. That insinuates that our men and women in uniform have done something wrong, and they have not, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important that the Members of this body, and also that the American people, know what Guantanamo Bay is about.

Guantanamo Bay is a detention center, and in that detention center are