

against American soldiers stationed in Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida 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 Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS 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 Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM (SHARPSBURG), SEPTEMBER 17, 1862, "THE BLOODIEST DAY OF THE CIVIL WAR"

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to commemorate the single bloodiest day in American combat history—the Battle of Antietam—September 17th, 1862. We are a product of our history and we can learn a lot from this terrible day in 1862.

On this day 141 years ago, nearly 100,000 Americans met at Antietam creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland. In a battle that lasted less than twelve hours, over 23,000 Americans lay dead or wounded.

More than twice as many Americans were killed or mortally wounded in combat at Antietam as in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Spanish-American War combined. Amazingly more Americans were killed or wounded at Antietam than on June 6, 1944—D Day on the Normandy beaches in World War II.

	Union	Confederate	Total
Killed	2,100	1,550	3,650
Wounded	9,550	7,750	17,300
Missing	750	1,020	1,770
Total	12,400	10,320	22,720

CHRONOLOGY OF THE BATTLE—WHAT HAPPENED

On September 17, Union Major General George McClellan confronted Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Sharpsburg, Maryland. At dawn, Hooker's Corps mounted a powerful assault on Lee's left flank. Attacks and counterattacks swept across Miller's cornfield and fighting raged throughout the day around the Dunker church. After repeated delays a Union corps under Burnside finally got into action and attempted to cross the stone bridge over Antietam creek and roll the Confederate right.

Union General Ambrose Burnside's corps of 12,000 men tried to cross the 12 foot wide

bridge over Antietam creek for 4 hours. About 450 Georgian sharpshooters took up positions behind trees and boulders on a steep wooded bluff overlooking the bridge. Greatly outnumbered the Confederates drove back several Union advances toward the bridge.

CONFEDERATE EYEWITNESS: BURNSIDE BRIDGE

Lieutenant Theodore T. Fogle, 2nd Georgia Infantry: "At a bridge on the Antietam Creek our Regiment and the 20th Ga., in all amounting to not over 300 muskets held them in check for four hours and a half and then we fell back only because our ammunition was exhausted, but we suffered badly, eight cannon just 500 yards off were pouring grape shot, shell and canister into us and our artillery could not silence them. We held our post until Major William Harris ordered us to fall back. Our Col. (Col. Holmes) . . . was killed about half an hour before. . . .

"We went into the fight with only 89 muskets and had eight officers and 35 men killed and wounded. So many of the men were shot down that the officers filled their places and loaded and fired their guns."

After horrific losses the union forces finally punched through and moved on Sharpsburg. But General McClellan had hesitated too long, allowing General Lee to consolidate his vulnerable forces and counterattack into Burnside's flank and rear. McClellan then hesitated once again, failing to pursue a retreating Lee. The opportunity for total victory was gone.

The Union's General McClellan hesitated many times that day. He lacked the courage to accept short term sacrifice even when it meant the long term salvation of the nation. As a result, the Confederate Army escaped that day and the war lasted another three bloody years.

This day in history reminds us that decisive leadership can save lives, end wars and prevent future attacks.

Today, we must continue to recognize that the survival of our nation is again challenged. President Bush and our military leaders have shown that they have the courage to face the reality of our world.

Last Friday at Fort Stewart Georgia President Bush said: "We are not waiting for further attacks on our citizens. We are striking our enemies before they can strike us again. Wars are won on the offensive—and America and its friends are staying on the offensive."

By taking the fight to our enemies we are diminishing our foes, securing our people and building the hope of people across the globe.

We owe the security of our nation and our way of life to the hosts of Americans who have unselfishly served and died. We are blessed to have those soldiers in our ranks once again and we are blessed that their leaders understand what is at stake for the nation and the world.

IRAQ PRINCIPLES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to begin the Congressional Black Caucus's Special Order to address the President's proposal to spend an additional \$87 billion for the war in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, since the President addressed the Nation on September 7 regarding the war in Iraq, the Congressional Black Caucus has carefully evaluated the current state of where we are in Iraq and established a set of principles that we believe should be our guide as we move forward.

Before I get into the substance of our principles, I want to recognize the diligent work of the Congressman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) for his leadership in drafting these principles and working very carefully with other members of the caucus to come to consensus. He willingly took on the task of synthesizing and framing the views of 39 Members of Congress. That is not an easy task. The Congressman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) handled it masterfully. I also want to thank all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus who helped us to get where we are today. It truly was a team effort.

Mr. Speaker, in October of last year, the Congressional Black Caucus issued a statement of principles with respect to any decision to go to war with Iraq. Although most of us were prepared to support broad-based international action sanctioned by the United States National Security Council, we opposed the unilateral first strike by the United States without first receiving clearly demonstrated evidence of an imminent threat of attack upon the United States.

At that time the Bush administration had not presented us with the evidence that we needed, both constitutionally and morally, to support its plan. It has not done so, I must note, to this day.

We argued last year that absent clear evidence of an imminent threat to the people of the United States, a unilateral first strike against Iraq would undermine the international moral authority of the United States that is so critical in our struggle against terrorism.

We were deeply apprehensive that the Middle East would be destabilized, that unilateral U.S. action would commit this Nation to a long-term and, perhaps, indefinite foreign engagement that would cost America dearly both in American lives and in national resources.

Last year's concerns have now become this year's harsh realities, realities that we must face as a Nation and that we must overcome.