churches, in back yards and in living rooms across this country. Their message is clear: Mr. President, redeploy our troops out of Iraq.

Up to now, however, the President has refused to hear the calls of millions of Americans demanding to end our mission of nation building in Iraq. The President has refused to listen to the Iraq Study Group, which recommended the redeployment of our troops out of Iraq. He has refused to listen to his own generals who have implored him, in many cases, to disengage from this civil war. He has refused to listen to Congress.

The supplemental on its way to the White House echoes what many of us in Congress and military families across this great country have been saying: We need a new direction for Iraq.

We take a backseat to no one in supporting the brave men and women fighting in Iraq. That is why so many of us have pushed this administration, pushed the leadership in the Pentagon and in the White House to equip our soldiers with proper body armor.

We take a backseat to no one in supporting the families of our soldiers overseas. Many so many of us in this Chamber have pushed to help these support groups that have formed all over the country for soldiers and helping them reintegrate back into their jobs, back with their families and their society when they return home from Iraq.

But more of the same is not a plan for our troops and will not end the war in Iraq. This war has made our country and our world less safe. Congress will continue to fight for our Nation’s military by working to see that they have the resources and the support they need and the leadership they deserve.

This legislation fully funds and supports our troops, while establishing conditions that will bring our troops home. It provides desperately needed funding to the Veterans’ Administration, something this administration and previous Republican Congresses have woefully underfunded. It provides desperately needed funding to the Veterans’ Administration to help care for the hundreds of thousands of new veterans created by this war.

If the President will not take responsibility for his failures in his conduct of this war, then Congress will. If the President will not lead our troops home, then Congress will. We owe it to our soldiers, to our sailors, to our airmen, airwomen, and to our marines, and we owe it to their families.

Instead of threatening a veto, the President should listen to the military leaders, listen to the American people, and work with Congress to change the course in Iraq.

Vetoing this legislation would deny funding our military and our veterans desperately need. $49 billion in emergency Department of Defense spending, more than the President’s budget; $3 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles; $4.9 billion in military construction for BRAC, the Base Closing Commission; and the VA, which has been underfunded by $2 billion in the President’s budget under this bill would get $1.7 billion immediately, more than the President’s VA proposal, and will do so on a pay-as-you-go basis. It includes $100 million for VA mental health services.

It is absolutely outrageous that this Congress—the House and Senate—and this President send our men and women into battle while we rearm them with the right body armor, not giving them the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles we know how to build in this country, and then when they return home, not giving tens of thousands of soldiers and marines the health care they deserve.

In addition to what we do to restore that spending and take care of our veterans when they return home, this emergency legislation has over $1 billion for Katrina relief, $15 million for mine safety because of the increase in deaths in mines in places such as Pennsylvania and West Virginia, $625 million for the pandemic flu response, something we absolutely need to be prepared for, and $400 million for energy assistance for the low-income elderly.

Please, Mr. President, before you decide to veto this bill, read this legislation. Don’t turn your back on millions of Americans, don’t turn your back on your military experts, don’t turn your back on our soldiers. Sign this legislation.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the issue of Iraq, to call on the President to sign the supplemental appropriations bill, the emergency bill that we will be sending to the President today to speak about the issue of Iraq, to call on the President to sign the supplemental appropriations bill, the emergency bill that we will be sending to the President today to speak about the issue of IRAQ.

CWO Keith Yoakum, 41, died on February 2, in Taji, Iraq, when his helicopter crashed. Chief Warrant Officer Four Yoakum was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Hemet, CA.

SGM Joseph J. Ellis, 40, died February 7, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Major Ellis was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SGT James R. Tijerina, 26, died February 7, when the helicopter he was flying in crashed while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Tijerina was assigned to Marine Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SGT Travis D. Pfister, 27, died February 7, when the helicopter he was flying in crashed while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Pfister was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SGT Travis D. Pfister, 27, died February 7, when the helicopter he was flying in crashed while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Pfister was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

1LT Jared M. Landaker, 25, died February 7, when the helicopter he was flying in crashed while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. First Lieutenant Landaker was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Big Bear City, CA.

1LT Robert B. Thrasher, 21, died on February 11, in Baghdad, Iraq, when his dismounted patrol received small arms fire. Sergeant Thrasher was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, TX. He was from Folsom, CA.

1LT Clarence T. Spencer, 24, died February 4, in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with the enemy using small arms fire in Baqubah, Iraq. Specialist Spencer was assigned to 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from San Diego, CA.

SP Dennis L. Seiler, Jr., 20, died on February 11, in Umm Qasr, Iraq, of noncombat related injuries. Specialist Seiler was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Infantry Regiment, Army National Guard, Fresno, CA. He was from Newhall, CA.

SP Ronnie G. Madore Jr., 34, died February 14, in Baqubah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Specialist Madore was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from San Diego, CA.

2LT Carl L. Seigert, 24, died February 14, in Baqubah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Sergeant Seigert was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from San Luis Obispo, CA.

LCpl Brian A. Escalante, 25, died February 17, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Escalante was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, 3rd Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SGT Brian A. Escalante, 25, died February 17, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Escalante was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, 3rd Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.
Sgt. Clinton W. Ahlquist, 23, died February 20, while conducting combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Ahlquist was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Divison, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Blake H. Howey, 20, died February 18, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Howey was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Twenty nine Palms, CA. He was from Hemet, CA.

Sgt Louis G. Kim, 19, died on February 20, in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when he received small arms fire. Specialist Kim was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Sgt Richard A. Soukenka, 30, died on February 27, in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Specialist Soukenka was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY. He was from Ocean City, MD.

Sgt. Christopher D. Young, 20, died on March 2, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Specialist Young was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Califormia Army National Guard, San Pedro, CA. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

LCpl Raul S. Bravo, 21, died March 3, while conducting operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Bravo was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Twenty nine Palms, CA.

Ssg Christopher R. Webb, 28, died March 7, in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. Specialist Webb was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Winchester, CA.

SSG. Daniel J. Santee, 21, died April 14, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Specialist Santee was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Palmdale, CA.

Sgt Darrell R. Griffin Jr., 26, died on March 21, in Balad, Iraq, from wounds suffered on March 20, during combat operations. Specialist Griffin was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Twenty nine Palms, CA.

Sgt Curtis R. Spivey, 25, died on April 2, in San Diego, CA, of injuries sustained on September 23, 2006. Specialist Spivey was assigned to B Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Alhambra, CA.

LCpl Daniel R. Olsen, 20, died April 2, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Olsen was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Hospitalman Lucas W.A. Emch, 21, died March 30, in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated in his vicinity while conducting combat operations in Al-Anbar Province, Iraq. Hospitalman Emch was a hospital corpsman assigned to 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

PFC Michael M. Rojas, 20, died on April 18, in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Specialist Rojas was assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Fresno, CA.

I would also like to pay tribute to the two soldiers from California who have died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom since January 30.

PFC Kristofer D. S. Thomas, 18, died February 18, in southeastern Afghanistan when the Chinook helicopter he was in was crashed. Private First Class Thomas was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA. He was from Roseville, CA.

Spgo. Agustin Gutierrez, 19, died on March 29, in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his military vehicle was overrun. Specialist Gutierrez was assigned to the 782nd Brigade Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC. He was from San Jacinto, CA.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, if you come to my office—I think you have had the opportunity to do so—you will see in front of the entrance at 112 Hart four huge placards with very small print paying tribute to those from California who have died in this conflict.

The sadness of all sadness is that we know having to send these posters back to be printed in yet smaller print because we keep having to add so many to it, and we are actually running out of space. We will have to get special permission from the Architect of the Capitol to place yet another placard in front of our door.

But we will do it regardless because we must put names on this conflict, ages on this conflict, we must pay tribute to those who are being sacrificed, in my opinion, by a President who simply does not care, whatever reason, from a failed course.

Anyone who reads the Constitution—I highly recommend it; it is a very...
this, it just goes on and on.
The American people. That change of
been no change of heart by the Amer-
It continues as if there is no Congress,
said no to that this past election. Yet
as if he is a one-man show when it
President says it is irresponsible,
Today we read: The deadliest month in
Major combat operations are over.
The Iraqi deaths are
highest of 2007 for U.S. troops. Over 100
readable document; it is a very concise
President in this emergency bill
want a change. We want success.
our young people are
killed this month. The Iraqi deaths are
far higher.
Cabinet table,
said Spec. Krystal Fowler, 21, of Hamp-
It makes me feel depressed to be in Iraq
now at a point where the only way to
Security situation.
the ICRC aims to ensure that Iraqis re-
ensuring the safety of Iraqis in the present disastrous se-
The situation in Iraq, detailed in the Red
force on the ground to
Say it is impossible to "get his sons because
The military has done ever-
things asked of it, and more.
being told a few months
days after their comrades
now the way to win this war is to win it diplomati-
cally, politically. Yet, this President
when the
I was supposed to last a few weeks
sensitive, all Iraqis.
We are just interfering, and letting our
We are just interfering, and letting our
There was a pause, as the soldiers mulled
there to go after al-Qaida when
Going after al-Qaida is
in troops out of there
combat mission to a support mission.
so many times, we have to go back.
The mission now is: Bring stability and
democracy to Iraq, and Iraq at peace
within its own borders and with its
neighbors, and an ally in the war
to cope with the ongoing crisis, as do the
Iraqis are spared and protected. This is an
obligation under international humanitarian law for both States and non-State actors.
The ICRC aims to ensure that Iraqis re-
ceive the aid they need most. It cooperates
closely with the Iraqi Red Crescent. How-
ever, humanitarian aid is already in short
when it comes to addressing the immense needs of Iraqis in the present disastrous se-
curity situation.
A CONFLICT THAT SPARES NO ONE
The humanitarian situation is steadily
worsening and it is affecting, directly or indi-
cerit that there has long been a failure to re-
Of Iraqi civilians is a daily reminder of the
suffering and the extremely poor security conditions that are disrupting the lives and livelihoods of millions. Every day, dozens of people are
killed and many more wounded. The plight of Iraqi civilians is a daily reminder of the
fact that there has long been a failure to re-
respect their lives and dignity.
One attack can devastate whole communities. "We are just interfering, and letting our
people and our military pay the price. Who is paying the price?
He said: Go get his sons because
They did it. That mission: accom-
plished. That tyrant is gone forever.
He said: Go get his sons because
may they will get the idea we mean
business. The military got his sons, put
the pictures on television of their dead bodies. It did not do the job.
What did it do? Not the job we had hoped for? We have
to hold elections. The military did
a magnificent job. Three elections were
actually held, and they have a govern-
ment. Now, that Government will go
on vacation, as I understand it, for 2
months while our troops are dy-
ning. The fact is, the military has done
every single thing asked of it. We are
now at a point where the only way to
win this war is to win it diplomati-
cally, politically. Yet, this President
will not change course. His solution is,
military action, a surge, which
was supposed to last a few weeks—
we are being told a few months—and
our military is paying the price. They are paying the price.
I want to read from this news article
today: "April Toll Is Highest of '07 for U.S.
Troops":
On Monday, U.S. troops at Camp Victory, a
spawling base near Baghdad International
Airport, reflected on April’s deadly toll on
their comrades. "It makes me feel depressed to be in Iraq right
now," said [Private Richard] Gonzalez, [22 years old], who is on his second
deployment. "It’s a whole lot different than last
time."
"We are just interfering, and letting our
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military action, a surge, which
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our military is paying the price. They are paying the price.
past year. The vastly inadequate water, sewage and electricity infrastructure is pre-
venting access to healthcare facilities. The water crisis is further exacerbated by the lack of maintenance and because security constraints have impeded repair work on electrical power grids, water and sanitation systems, medical facilities and essential facilities.

Power shortages are growing worse throughout the country, including northern areas, owing largely to the failure to carry out maintenance work so as to increase generation capacity. Fuel shortages affecting power stations and acts of sabotage are further aggravating the crisis. As a result, water-treatment plants, primary health-care centres and hospitals rely mainly on back-up generators, which often break down owing to excess usage or fail victim to the chronic fuel shortages.

The destructive legacy of previous conflicts, from 1980 onwards, and the years of international sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 are further exacerbating the current crisis.

THE ICRC IN IRAQ

Despite the current security situation, the ICRC spares no effort to help the families most in need. It works closely with the Iraqi Red Crescent, which regularly distributes relief provided by the ICRC and collects and delivers Red Cross messages (brief personal messages to relatives made otherwise unreachable by armed conflict).

The ICRC is a strictly humanitarian organization committed to the principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality—strives to monitor and promote respect for international humanitarian law and other legal standards applicable to the current situation in Iraq.

SLIDING TO DISASTER

Since the bombing of the sacred Shi'ite shrine of Samarra in February 2006 and the subsequent increase in violence, the problem of displacement in Iraq has become particularly acute. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis continue to be forced out of their homes owing to military operations, general poor security and the destruction of houses. And the outlook is bleak.

In Baghdad and other areas with mixed communities, where the situation is likely to worsen.

Most displaced people have taken refuge with host families, who often struggle to cope with the additional burden on their limited resources. Some have found refuge in camps, public buildings and abandoned military barracks. Where displaced people decide to seek refuge often depends on the presence of relatives or friends and, because of the prevalent strict security violence, on the religious or ethnic make-up of the host community.

Frequently, both the displaced families and the communities hosting them are badly in need of shelter materials, access to clean water, adequate sanitation, food and other essentials.

The displacement of hundreds of thousands of people places additional burden on Iraq's basic infrastructure, which is barely sufficient to serve the displaced population. Humanitarian aid is needed by a wide range of particularly vulnerable civilians, including elderly and disabled people and female-headed households.

MEDICAL CARE UNDER THREAT

Medical professionals are fleeing the country in large numbers following the murder or abduction of colleagues. Hospitals and other medical facilities are desperately short of qualified staff. According to the Iraqi Ministry of Health, more than half the doctors have left the country in recent months.

The mass influx of casualties to hospitals following the daily attacks against civilians and other violent incidents is putting the health care system to a tremendous additional strain. Staff and resources are often stretched to the limit.

The failure to observe the special status of medical staff is a major concern. A hospital director in Baghdad told the ICRC that poor security conditions were preventing staff from providing medical services. And thereby reports of armed men storming hospitals and forcing doctors to give their companions priority treatment at the expense of others in more urgent need.

Roadblocks and check-points sometimes prevent doctors and patients from reaching health-care centres in time. The lack of security also hampers the distribution of medical supplies in many parts of Iraq.

DIRTY AND SCARCE—THE WATER CRISIS

Both the quantity and quality of drinking water in Iraq remain insufficient despite many water supplies in and around Baghdad and other areas.

The ICRC reported that poor management has contaminated water supplies in many parts of Iraq. Over 161,000 people received essential household items.

The ICRC is the Red Cross report.

Over 227,000 people, mostly members of displaced families, received food aid in various parts of Iraq. Over 161,000 people received essential household items.

Some 83,000 people, including members of displaced families, had their water supply ensured through emergency ICRC water and sanitation projects.

In all, over 4 million people benefited from water and sanitation projects.

Twenty major hospitals in Hillah, Baghdad, Diwaniya, Karbala, Najaf and Tal Afar received medical supplies for the treatment of wounded patients.

Eight field hospitals based in Baghdad, Hillah, Najaf and Basra were supported by the ICRC for the treatment of patients in places outside of Baghdad.

ICRC held some 2,000 artificial and some 480 pairs of crutches.

ICRC held some 2,000 artificial and some 480 pairs of crutches.

How do you sit back and say “status quo”?: How? How? Why not welcome a change? Why not welcome the Iraq Support Group? Why not welcome the work that has been done here in 50, 60 different hearings which we have held?

Another part: “Sliding to disaster,” in the International Red Cross report. Another part: “Medical care under threat.” Another part: “Dirty and scarce—the water crisis.” Another part: “Torn apart—The fate of separated families.” It goes into the agony. I ask us all to imagine what it would
be like to worry about our kids for even 15 minutes, let alone days and months.

This Red Cross report is printed in the RECORD.

Mr. President, also, I ask unanimous consent to print the entire article I referred to from the newspaper be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post Foreign Service, by Sudarsan Raghavan and Karin Brulliard]

APRIL TOLL IS HIGHEST OF '07 FOR U.S. TROOPS

(BY SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN AND KARIN BRULLIARD)

BAGHDAD, April 30.—The deaths of more than 100 American troops in April made it the deadliest month so far this year for U.S. forces in Iraq, underscoring the growing exposure of Americans as thousands of reinforcements arrive for an 11-week-old offensive to tame sectarian violence.

More than 60 Iraqis also were killed or found dead across Iraq on Monday. Casualties among Iraqi civilians and security forces have dropped those of American forces in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion four years ago.

Under the new counterinsurgency plan, many U.S. forces have left large, more secure bases to live in small combat outposts and to patrol hostile neighborhoods where the risk of insurgents targeting them has multiplied.

Highlighting the vulnerability of American forces, a series of explosions Monday night rocked Baghdad's Green Zone, the most heavily secured enclave in the capital and home base for U.S. troops, western diplomats and Iraqi government officials.

"There is a duck-and-cover going on right now," said Lt. Col. Christopher C. Garver, a U.S. military spokesman, before quietly sitting off the phone. Later, Garver confirmed there had been an assault on the Green Zone, but it was unclear what had happened. Local Iraq television stations reported 13 explosions inside the zone. There were no immediate reports of casualties, Garver said.

In eastern Baghdad on Sunday, a roadside bomb killed three U.S. soldiers and an interpreter who were on patrol, the military said.

Attacks killed a total of nine U.S. troops over the weekend, including five whose deaths were announced Monday. The weekend's fatalities brought the toll for the month to 161 Americans killed, in the sixth most-lethal month for American forces since the U.S.-led invasion four years ago.

Under the new counterinsurgency plan, many U.S. forces have left large, more secure bases to live in small combat outposts and to patrol hostile neighborhoods where the risk of insurgents targeting them has multiplied.

A Marine was killed in the Sunni insurgent bastion of Anbar province, west of Baghdad, on Saturday. The military reported four U.S. soldiers killed on that day.

Before the deaths were announced Monday, 98 U.S. soldiers had been killed during April, according toicasualties.org, an independent Web site that monitors military deaths. Nearly half have died in and around Baghdad, with the next greatest number of deaths occurring in Anbar and Diyala provinces. In December, 112 U.S. soldiers were killed.

With 13 combat deaths, April also was the deadliest month for British troops in Iraq since the beginning of the war, when 27 soldiers died in March. Britain's British casualties highlighted the growing tensions in southern Iraq as Shiite groups clash for power and Britain prepares to draw down its forces.

The deaths came as the largest bloc of Sunnis in Iraq's parliament, the Iraqi Accordance Front, pulled out its ministers from the cabinet, saying that it "had lost hope" in having Sunni concerns addressed by the government. The threat prompted President Bush to phone one of Iraq's two vice presidents, Tariq al-Hashimi, a Sunni, in an attempt to defuse the potential political crisis that Hashimi's office said in a statement. A Sunni withdrawal could seriously hamper efforts at national reconciliation and further weaken the government. Only six cabinet ministers loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr resigned from the cabinet.

In the province of Diyala, where scores of fighters have fled to the Baghdad security offensive, a car bomb exploded near a funeral tent in the town of Khalis, killing 22 and wounding 35, said Lt. Mohammed Hakman of the Diyala police Joint Coordination Center. Police said they expected the toll to rise.

The siege came four days after a suicide attacker detonated a car packed with bombs at a checkpoint in the town, 50 miles north of Baghdad, killing 10 Iraqi soldiers.

An explosion near the Shiite-led government and wounding six others, police said. In another attack in the same section of the capital on Saturday.

In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded in the Ali-Al-Haider neighborhood, killing four and wounding another seven, all civilians, while another car bomb detonated in a local market, killing five and wounding nine civilians. In the Shaab neighborhood, mortar shells landed on a house, killing three and injuring eight, police said.

Meanwhile, police found 13 corpses—all boundfolded, shot in the head—in different parts of the capital.

On Monday, U.S. troops at Camp Victory, a sprawling base near Baghdad International Airport, reflected on April's deadly toll on their comrades.

Sitting at a picnic table outside a recreation center, four soldiers smoked Marlboros under a starry sky. Part of the Headquarters Headquarters Support Company for the 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., they had been at the base since early April. The were out on patrol, the base, just "sweeping parking lots and waiting for a sandstorm," as Pvt. Richard Gonzalez, 22, put it.

Still, they frequent news of troop deaths made even their mission more frightening.

"It makes me feel depressed to be in Iraq right now," said Gonzalez, who is on his second deployment. "It's a whole lot different than last time."

Now, he said soldiers at the base must carry weapons. Return addresses on letters from home must be ripped off and burned, so as not to fall into the wrong hands. On his first deployment, packed before his Baghdad base was hit by mortar fire. This time, he said, it seems the Camp Victory intercom announces incoming fire every day.

"There's a whole lot more activity," said Spec. Krystal Fowler, 21, of Hampton, Va. She said it "kind of bothers" her to know other troops are taking hits in the field and she can't help.


"Our fellow soldiers are out there dying, and we're here not doing our job," Jetter said.

Gonzalez said the deaths made him realize that "there's a war going on out there."
They have to defend their own country. He said: Well, pretty soon they will be able to do it. Clearly, they are not doing it. Clearly, the Iraqis are turning on each other. What is our military to do?

As Thomas Friedman said, "Our troops are protecting everyone, and yet they are everyone's target.

They are protecting the Sunnis from the Shia. When they are protecting the Shia, the Sunnis get them. That is an irresponsible policy. So what we need to do is to keep going through to this President. I ask all the American people to keep on speaking out, to ask the President in these next couple of hours to sign this bill. We can finally change course. We have been in Iraq longer than World War II. We can't afford this conflict, and that doesn't mean you cut and run. Anyone who says that is what we are saying is wrong. Read the bill. We redeploy out of Iraq, we stay in the region to go after al-Qaida and to train the Iraqi forces.

We can't afford this anymore. Mr. President: Sign the bill.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

POLICE CHASES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to talk about a decision by the Supreme Court yesterday that greatly troubles me. Some many years ago, I received a call at 10:31 in the evening from my mother when my father had been killed in a car accident. She was killed in a car accident as a result of a high-speed police chase. My mother was driving home from visiting a friend in the hospital, going 25 or 30 miles an hour on a street in Bismarck, ND. A drunk, on Main Street in Bismarck, ND, was spinning his wheels on his pickup truck, and the police then decided to apprehend him. The drunk driver took flight. Witnesses said he was going 80 to 100 miles an hour on the city streets in Bismarck. A drunk, on Main Street in Bismarck, ND, was spinning his wheels on his pickup truck, and the police then decided to apprehend him. The drunk driver took flight. Witnesses said he was going 80 to 100 miles an hour on the city streets in Bismarck.

Let me talk just a little about this issue. This is an issue which is getting a gray beard these days because it has been around so long with so many promises to be able to take it up here in the Congress. We have 33 cosponsors on a piece of legislation that would try to break the back of the pricing monopoly that exists with the pharmaceutical industry for prescription drugs in our country. The fact is, the American consumers are charged the highest prices for prescription drugs anywhere in the world. The highest prices for prescription drugs are charged to the American consumer. It is not right. It is not fair. It ought to stop. We do have price controls on prescription drugs in our country; they are just controlled by the pharmaceutical industry. That is why we have the highest prices in the world.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to show a couple of bottles of medicine.