Mr. Speaker, my first thought when watching the news

last night was about the people who have a hole in their hearts and in

their homes because of the senseless brutal violence perpetrated by

Osama bin Laden. There was 9/11, of course, but also the 1993 World

Trade Center bombing, the embassy bombings in east Africa, and the

attack on the USS Cole. Osama bin Laden is responsible for so much

evil, and I hope that the families of his victims can now find some

measure of peace and closure.

Bin Laden is dead, but the terrorism threat that he represents

remains alive and well. The network he created continues to thrive. And

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that al Qaeda will remain strong as long as we

continue our policy of aggressive militarism in the Middle East. I

would like to see what happened on Sunday be the beginning of bringing

our troops home and removing the very need for military action in the

Middle East.