Mr. Speaker, Sir Winston Churchill once said ``An

appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile--hoping it will eat him last.''

We followed the process of appeasement with terrorists for too long. We

ignored the jihadists for too long, and they finally arrived on our

soil.

Let me highlight a few examples of terrorist attacks for which we

responded with appeasement.

December 21, 1988, Pan American Airlines Flight 103 was blown up by a

bomb over Lockerbie, Scotland killing all 259 passengers on board;

February 26, 1993, an Islamic terrorist group attempted to blow up

the World Trade Center using a bomb in an underground garage;

August 7, 1998, bombs exploded simultaneously in front of U.S.

Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killing 12 U. S. citizens and injuring

thousands of innocent bystanders;

On October 12, 2000, they attacked the USS Cole while docked in Aden,

Yemen killing 17 sailors and injuring 70 others.

After the loss of the World Trade Center and the attack on the

Pentagon on September 11, 2001 our military was finally ordered to take

the fight to the terrorists.

When a new recruit is inducted into the U.S. military he or she takes

an oath. In part this oath pledges the soldier, sailor or airman to

``protect and defend the United States Constitution from all enemies

foreign and domestic.'' If I had to distill the U.S. Constitution down

to a single word I would define it as ``liberty.''

Young Americans fought and died at Trenton and Yorktown to achieve

liberty. They died at Gettysburg and Vicksburg to extend liberty to all

Americans. They gave their all at Normandy and Iwo Jima to restore

liberty to people they did not know. Throughout American history

Americans have stood up to the enemies of liberty.

In my youth I heard the President of the United States say ``Let

every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay

any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend,

oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty.''. That

President was John F. Kennedy. He knew the value of liberty. As part of

the ``The Greatest Generation'' he risked life and limb in defense of

liberty.

The Greatest Generation spent 144 percent of our Gross Domestic

Product defending liberty. Not 144 percent of the Federal budget, but

144 percent of the total annual output of goods and services in our

country. Over 400,000 young Americans died in the effort. There are

9,387 crosses in the American cemetery on the bluffs overlooking the

beaches of Normandy. The Greatest Generation of Americans was willing

to pay any price, and bear any burden, in defense of liberty.

We have some people today who know the price of everything and the

value of nothing. Has liberty depreciated so much? Is she worth less to

us than she was to our parents? And their parents? Shall we tell those

who lay at Flanders' fields we are not willing to support any friend,

and oppose any foe, to make the world safe and secure for liberty?

Anyone who does not understand that Osama bin Laden is an enemy of

liberty, deludes himself. Anyone who believes al Zarqawi was not

determined to kill liberty is feeding the crocodile. The value of

anything is determined by the price paid. For Americans throughout our

nation's history we would not sell our liberty for any price. For our

Founders it was worth their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred

honor.

It took us 13 years after the start of our revolution to adopt our

current constitution. The Iraqi people are progressing to a

constitutional government at a comparatively rapid rate. I have a great

deal of respect for those who are willing to serve in their government.

Serving in our government often brings verbal abuse. Serving in the

Iraqi government is often life threatening for them and their families.

And I have the utmost respect for those serving in the U.S. military

and coalition forces.

Mr. Speaker, as a young man grows up he is often confronted with

bullying and intimidation. When my son, Noah, was a little boy I gave

him two rules on fighting. The number one rule is: We don't start

fights. I told him if I ever caught him bullying or picking a fight I

would make him regret it. Looking for a fight is unacceptable behavior

for our family. He asked me what the second rule was. I told him we

don't lose fights. If he finds himself in a fight he did not instigate,

if he is engaged in a fight through no fault of his own, then I expect

him to win.

We did not ask for this fight, Mr. Speaker. The people who went to

work at the World Trade Center on September 11 were not trying to pick

a fight. The Americans at the Pentagon weren't spoiling for one. The

enemies of liberty after being fed for two decades came to eat us at

last. We all want our soldiers, sailors and airmen home safely, but not

until the job is finished. Appeasement is not a logical policy and

losing is not an option.