Yes, indeed, just to follow up on the gentleman from

Oregon, we are, in our efforts to reauthorize elementary and secondary

education, expanding to the whole child, we hope, including civics and

art and music.

Mr. Speaker, my first thought when watching the news last Sunday

night was about the many people, the many 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, the attack on the USS Cole. 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 hopefully some closure.

He is dead, but the terrorism threat 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, the United

States of America, continue our policy of aggressive militarism in the

Middle East.

The war in Afghanistan remains an epic failure that is bankrupting us

morally and fiscally. Our nearly 10-year occupation has emboldened

those who hate America instead of defeating them. It has created more

terrorists than it has killed. It is undermining our national security

interests, not advancing them. It is making us less safe, not more.

None of that changes with the news of Osama bin Laden's death. Just

last week, a retired Army lieutenant colonel from my district just

north of the Golden Gate Bridge, James McLaughlin, Jr., of Santa Rosa,

California, was killed while working as a contractor training military

pilots in Afghanistan. He died along with eight others when an Afghan

pilot turned on his allies and went on a shooting spree during a

meeting at the Kabul airport. Bin Laden's death won't bring Jim

McLaughlin back, nor will it bring back the 1,500-plus Americans who

have lost their lives in Afghanistan. The horror of this war continues

unabated.

So with Osama bin Laden's death, I believe that it is past time for

somber reflection--reflection about the policies of the last 10 years

and about where we might go from here. It is time to rethink our entire

approach to national security.

We can save so much in lives, in money, in global credibility, and in

moral authority with a smart security platform that puts diplomacy and

development aid before guns and tanks: a platform that uses American

power for humanitarian ends, a platform that empowers and invests in

the people of Afghanistan instead of invading and occupying their

country.

We have a chance now to change course. The trauma of 9/11 was

profound, but it also led to some disastrous choices, from the war in

Iraq, to roving wiretaps, to waterboarding, to the surge in

Afghanistan. Now that the 9/11 mastermind is gone, it is time to turn a

new page.

It has to begin with a swift move toward military redeployment out of

Afghanistan. We cannot continue down this road of permanent warfare.

The costs are too great. I've never ever felt more strongly, Mr.

Speaker, that it is time to bring our troops home.