Mr. Speaker, Osama bin Laden applauded the 9/11 attacks.

Such an act of deliberate killing of innocent lives deserves

retribution. It is good that bin Laden is dead and justice is served.

Targeted retribution is far superior to wars of aggression and nation-

building.

In 2001, I supported giving the President authority to punish those

responsible for the vicious 9/11 attacks. Using this authority and

opportunity to pursue nation-building and remaking the Middle East was

cynical and dangerous, as the past 10 years have proven. The sad

tragedy is that it took 10 years, trillions of dollars, tens of

thousands of American casualties and many thousands of innocent lives

to achieve our mission of killing one evil person.

A narrow, targeted mission under these circumstances is far superior

to initiating wars against countries not involved in the 9/11 attacks.

This was the reason I emphasized at the time the principles of marque

and reprisal, provided to us by the Constitution for difficult missions

such as we faced. I am convinced that this approach would have achieved

our goal much sooner and much cheaper.

The elimination of Osama bin Laden should now prompt us to bring our

troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq. Al Qaeda was never in Iraq, and

we were supposedly in Afghanistan to get Osama bin Laden. With bin

Laden gone, there is no reason for our presence in this region, unless

indeed it was all about oil, nation-building and remaking the Middle

East and Central Asia.

Hopefully, bin Laden does not get the last laugh. He claimed the 9/11

attacks were designed to, number one, get America to spread its

military dangerously and excessively throughout the Middle East; two,

to cause political dissension within the United States. Seventy percent

of the American people now believe we should leave Afghanistan, yet

both parties seem destined to stay; and number three, to bankrupt

America through excessive military spending, as he did to the Soviets.

The best thing we can do is prove bin Laden to be a false prophet.

We must learn from this recent history. Tragically, one result may be

the acceptance of torture as a legitimate tool for pursuing our foreign

policy. A free society calling itself a republic should never succumb

to such evil.

With regard to foreign aid to Pakistan, the fact that bin Laden was

safely protected for 10 years in Pakistan should make us question the

wisdom of robbing American citizens to support any government around

the world with foreign aid. Our failed foreign policy is reflected in

our bizarre relationship with Pakistan. We bomb them with our drones,

causing civilian casualties, we give them billions of dollars in

foreign aid, and she protects America's enemy number one, bin Laden,

for a decade.

It is time to consider a sensible, non-interventionist foreign policy

as advised by our founders and authorized by our Constitution. We would

all be better off for it.