Mr. Speaker, as I rise tonight to begin this hour, I rise

with a very heavy heart, but with the most renewed sense of pride and

patriotism I have ever had as I honor the life of Sergeant David Thomas

Weir.

Sergeant David Weir died 8 days ago on the streets of Baghdad in

service to our country. He is from Cleveland, TN, where last night over

2,000 people showed up at the Bradley Central High School football

arena to honor a great American hero.

I spoke with Sergeant Weir's mother and father 2 days ago, Lynn and

Jackie Weir, and it is just extraordinary to me that there are families

in this country that love freedom so much, love our country so much

that even in the most grief and sadness they could ever imagine or

experience, a hundred percent believe in the mission, the service, the

sacrifice of their own son to defend liberty for our Nation.

Lynn Weir told me that if he would have tried, and he didn't, to keep

his son from going, he could not have kept his son from going. He said

David Weir, from the time he was a little boy, wanted to serve his

country in uniform. He was a member of the 101st Airborne. This was his

career. This was his way of life. He leaves a wife behind, Alison; a

little 18-month-old son, Gavin, who does not understand what has

happened. But everyone else knows very clearly what has happened. A

great American patriot died doing what he wanted to do, which was to

stand in harm's way on behalf of our civilian population, as the

Greatest Generation did, as other generations have been called to, at a

time when there is a very real and imminent threat to our way of life

called the Islamic jihadists.

And Sergeant Weir goes to heaven, leaves this Earth, as others have,

in the most sacrificial way, answering the scriptural call that says

``No greater love hath any man than to lay down his life for his

friends.''

And I say to Jackie and to Lynn and to Alison and to Gavin, your

father; your husband; Chris, his brother; your son gave his life for

everyone in our country. We will never forget him. We will always

remember him. We hail his life, a sacrificial life of service to

others, putting everyone else above himself, believing in his mission

and his comrades.

His father said he talked to him the day before and he was so excited

about getting out in the streets of Baghdad because he didn't want to

be sitting behind a desk, because that was not what he was trained to

do. That was not what he volunteered to do. That was not what he was

prepared to do. He did what he went there to do, and it cost him his

life. And while his parents grieve, our State and our Nation stand

united, I believe, in their full appreciation of his life and his

sacrifice and his extraordinary courage and bravery.

On Monday, this coming Monday, I am honored to be with the family in

Chattanooga, Tennessee, with full military honors as we lay him to rest

in the national cemetery.

Thank you, Sergeant Weir, for loving our country so much that you

were willing to die for it.

Another friend from my district, Lieutenant Colonel Brett Hale, is

there serving in Iraq today. He is the commander of the Dragon Slayers.

He too is a patriot. His family is back home praying for him every day,

a wife and children.

He sent me an e-mail 10 days ago. I want to read part of it in my

tribute and our honor on the House floor tonight of these great

American patriots who volunteered to serve our country and make their

life secondary to ours.

He wrote me and said: ``If we could only get the truth communicated

to the public, they would know we have made great strides here in Iraq.

Weekly we are transferring responsibility for the security in many

provinces,'' and another one was transferred yesterday, ``and cities

back to the Iraqi military. While certain people want to say it is a

`civil war,' I want to tell you firsthand it is more about Islamic

jihadists crossing over the borders. They continue to attempt to

disrupt a young emerging democracy. The insurgents are capitalizing on

the inexperience of this government and directly causing the sectarian

violence and so-called fueling the fire. They get more and more

strength and resolve when they hear the discourse in our country. They

know it is only a matter of time before we give up because we perceive

the war in Iraq is too difficult.

``We all know anything worthwhile is not easy. Freedom is not free.

The Iraqis are trying to make it work. If we retreat, the terrorists

win. They win now and they win in the future when they have a safe

haven to plan, train, and operate and attack us again.

``It is our choice. We are either going to support our efforts to win

the global war on terror, or we are going to support those that want to

retreat inside our borders and wait for the next attack. We found out

on 9/11 if we retreat, they attack.

``Finally, why did we go to Iraq? Ask yourself why did we fight

Germany in World War II? Japan attacked us, not Germany. The same

principle applies. We couldn't take the chance then and we can't now.

Those that say otherwise are sympathizing with the enemy.''

That is from Lieutenant Colonel Brett Hale to me on the ground in

Iraq. What a patriot. As he says, the word is not getting out in this

country in a fair way of the progress that we are making. As General

Casey said, ``If we leave, they will follow us home.'' These threats

are real.

Mr. Speaker, I have been down here 4 weeks in a row as I have been in

Washington to try to go through the severity of these real threats

around the world and the fact that the jihadists are spreading like

wildfire through Europe. Read the book ``While Europe Slept.'' Read the

book ``Londonstan.'' You will know that through the mosques there is a

radicalization under way. Even the Pope can't speak of it because it is

not politically correct to say that fanaticism in religion is not good

for the world. It ought to be obvious. Regardless of what the religion

is or how many there are or what is politically correct, fanaticism

does lead to holy wars and the crusades. And we don't want that. We

want the mullahs and the ayatollahs to condemn suicide bombings. We

want peace and security for the world. We want our allies to have a

backbone and stand up and acknowledge the threat. We want our

President to go to the United Nations and say we can't appease other

countries. We have to stand behind security for all and freedom for

people and liberty everywhere.

We are all amazed in this country that from our own hemisphere to the

south, the President of Venezuela come to our country and says this.

Hugo Chavez is his name. In this country we call each other out of

respect. Even the people who just spoke, whom I couldn't disagree with

more. The people who just spoke are all talking politics. They are all

interested in the next election, not, frankly, the future of our

country and preserving liberty and standing up and meeting the

challenge of this generation. It is all for them about 47 days from now

in an election instead of ``I believe in my gut,'' standing up and

protecting our country. But despite that, because we are decent,

reasonable, we call them ``honorable.'' We call each other

``honorable,'' regardless of whether we agree or not.

I have got to tell you what the President of Venezuela did in this

country yesterday was dishonorable. It dishonored his nation. It

dishonors the people of his nation. It dishonors everyone south of here

in our hemisphere because what it does is it causes people in this

country not to trust or even like people who come into this country and

say what President Hugo Chavez said yesterday.

He said this: ``The devil was here yesterday. It still smells of

sulfur around here,'' he added. He said, ``The President of the United

States, the gentleman to whom I refer as the devil, came here, talking

as if he owned the world, truly, as the owner of the world.

``I think we could call a psychiatrist to analyze yesterday's

statement made by the President of the United States. As the spokesman

of imperialism, he came to share his nostrums, to try to preserve the

current pattern of domination, exploitation, and pillage of the peoples

of the world.''

He said, ``The President of the United States came to talk to the

peoples--to the peoples of world. What would those peoples of the world

tell him if they were given the floor? . . . I think I have some

inkling of what the peoples of the south, the oppressed peoples, think.

They would say, `Yankee imperialist, go home.'

``I have the feeling, dear world dictator, that you are going to live

the rest of your days as a nightmare because the rest of us are

standing up, all those who are rising up against American imperialism,

who are shouting for equality, for respect, for the sovereignty of

nations.''

This was the President of Venezuela, in our country, saying this.

And let us praise a Democrat in this House named Charlie Rangel, whom

I seldom agree with. But, boy, do I appreciate his patriotism in

defense of our country and its traditions when he said this today. He

said, ``You do not come into my country, my congressional district, and

you do not condemn my President. If there is any criticism of President

Bush, it should be restricted to Americans, whether they voted for him

or not. I just want to make it abundantly clear to Hugo Chavez or any

other president, do not come to the United States and think because we

have problems with our President that any foreigner can come to our

country and not think that Americans do not feel offended when you

offend our Commander in Chief.''

Thank you, Charlie Rangel, for being an honorable Democrat who stands

united at this time of war.

Hugo Chavez is a troublemaker in a big way. He wants to work with

Iranian President Ahmadinejad. I watched his interview last night on

Anderson Cooper, and he calmly looked Anderson Cooper in the eyes, and

he gave a very warped view of history, not even willing to acknowledge

that the Holocaust took place. Completely in denial. You would have to

wonder where in the world he gets his facts or his view of the world.

This is a troubling time in American history. I say to young people

everywhere I go, the days ahead will be very, very difficult. We need

to be honest with them about this. But the character of this great

Nation was born out of the sacrifices, the courage, and the willingness

to face these challenges of our grandparents and our great-

grandparents. The Greatest Generation, they are the standard for

stepping up to meeting global challenges, and they gave us our

character. We didn't get our character by the big buildings or Wall

Street or wealth or even military power. We got it by sacrifice and

dedication and commitment and family, and they are the standard.

They didn't cower or retreat from these challenges. They stood up.

They faced them head on. They showed us what it took to preserve

freedom and extend it from one generation to the next. And we must do

the same thing. We must come together as a Nation.

I hate it that we are in the middle of this political campaign while

we are at war because it is not good for us to say the things we say,

even on the floor of this House. It is not good for Lieutenant Colonel

Hale and others to look back here and see the potshots being fired. I

hate it that over half of the Democrats in the Senate voted to remove

Saddam Hussein by force and almost half of the Democrats voted and now

they all say it was a mistake.

Let me tell you there has never been a pretty war. Never. There has

never been one perfectly executed, and you do not remove a genocidal

mass murderer with a picnic. It is ugly. And a brand new democracy

takes a while to develop. And it is tough. Tough. But thank goodness

that men and women in uniform will volunteer to go serve and carry out

this tough mission and extend liberty from one generation to the next.

These are difficult days. America needs to pull together.

I want to yield to my colleagues that have come tonight, two of the

people I respect the most in the House. First the gentlewoman from

North Carolina.

Virginia Foxx is a new Member, but you would never know it because

she has got tons of experience, and she has been down here standing up

for what she believes, day in and day out. I want to yield to her on

this most important issue of global security.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her service and

for her message tonight on this global threat.

Before I yield to the gentleman from Michigan, let me just remind

everyone here in the House of Representatives and anyone who may be

watching our proceedings tonight, Mr. Speaker, that regardless of what

some would have you believe, or even you may get filtered to you

through the national media, this war is with fanatics called the

jihadists, who, by their own charter and their own doctrine, want to

reestablish a caliphate for themselves and their rule that extends from

northwest Africa all of the way east, basically, to the Far East,

through Indonesia, above Australia.

And I say that because those are the words that were in the letter

that Zarqawi wrote to Zawahari before we killed Zarqawi. The top al

Qaeda leaders, in their own communication with each other, said, use

the infidels', the U.S., that is what they call us, presence in Iraq to

recruit insurgents and other terrorists to try to extend this

caliphate, reestablish the caliphate for radical Arab rule. So this is

an aggressive plan.

If we left Iraq tomorrow, the terrorists would not only win, but it

would advance their cause. And it is spreading. This is a real threat,

and it did not just start on September 11. That was one more attack. It

happened to be the largest. But it was not the first on American soil

or American sovereignty.

They tried to bring the World Trade Center down in 1993, and their

engineering did not work. We did not pay enough attention to it. But

they had hit our embassies, which is sovereign U.S. land in other

countries, time and time again, the same people.

It all started, Mr. Speaker, in 1979 in Iran, the sponsor of

Hezbollah, which has now exported terrorism and frankly stolen the

government of Lebanon from the Lebanese people and engaged in war with

Israel, and elected terrorist leadership in Palestine called Hamas. And

these terror networks are coordinating and spreading and the threats

are growing, and our way of life in the future will be at stake if men

and women do not stand in harm's way on our behalf.

And you may say, well, that is over there on the other side of the

ocean. But I will tell you when Hugo Chavez comes here and says what he

said yesterday, and he is coordinating and communicating with these

terrorist leaders from other countries, and identifying himself with

them, standing with them, wanting to be on their team, and he is in our

hemisphere, and through his oil he is trying to bribe and own other

South American countries by lending them oil so they will be obligated

to him, and he has a warped sense of reality, and comes and says these

ridiculous crazy things like he said yesterday, we have threats.

That brings us to the southern border. Because I will tell you, our

security in this country is critically attached to our ability to keep

people that we do not want in this country from coming across the most

porous place, and that is our southern border. I want to talk about

that again in a moment, but right now I want to yield to a Member from

Michigan who people from one side of the spectrum to the other here in

this House look at as one of the most knowledgeable, intellectual,

thoughtful, tough Members of the House, Thaddeus McCotter from

Michigan. I am so honored he came to the floor tonight to stand with me

and go through this Special Order. The gentleman from Michigan.

I thank the gentleman so much for his articulation of these

problems, and the potential threats. Clearly our hemisphere could

become a serious problem for us because of these relationships. If you

don't think it's a global problem, you should follow what has happened

in East and North Africa just in recent weeks where, in Somalia, one of

the top al Qaeda members on our watch list is put in charge of the

Government of Somalia.

The Sudan is a meltdown, there is a vacuum; Algeria, much the same.

Just last week, for the first time, our country established a U.S.

military command in northern Africa. Why? Because there is a vacuum in

leadership.

What interests do the terrorist networks have in a vacuum of

leadership? That is what they had in Afghanistan. The Taliban took over

Afghanistan because there was no leadership, and it gave them a

sovereign nation from which to operate.

Frankly, one of the elemental factors in my decision to vote to

remove Saddam Hussein by force was to make sure that in the heart of

the Middle East we didn't give them another sovereign nation from which

to operate, and we sure don't want to let them come into one of these

areas in northern Africa and take over a country like they did

Afghanistan.

You know, it was a crafty way that Hezbollah took control in Lebanon.

Go in with some money backed by Iran, money and oil revenues, and

basically put people to work, make them obligated to you. Frankly, it

is the same kind of thing that Castro did years ago with communism in

Central and South America. Meet them at their point of need, make

friends with them, and then put them to work for your way of thinking,

dictatorial; speaking of imperialism, repressing all human rights. You

know, I tell you what, I daresay that people in Venezuela don't have

the right to speak there as Chavez spoke here in just the most blatant

way. These threats are real. No one, no one likes war.

John Stuart Mill said this: War is an ugly thing, but it is not the

ugliest of things. He said the decayed and degraded state of patriotic

feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. He said a

person who has nothing for which they are willing to fight, nothing

they care more about than their own personal safety, is a miserable

creature, who has no chance of ever being free, unless those very

freedoms are made and kept by better persons than himself, end quote.

Those better persons are the men and women in uniform of our Armed

Forces, who every single one volunteered to serve our country; whether

in the Guard, Reserve or Active Duty, every single one of them

volunteered to stand in harm's way on our behalf.

The President of the United States believes deep in his soul that

this mission must be carried out and completed, and I agree with him.

It is so important, especially right now, with all of these voices in

the world and all of these people jockeying for legitimacy and

position, that we are not in retreat, that we follow through on our

commitments, that we don't leave the people of the Middle East

wondering if America has all of a sudden, for the first time in 230

years, lost our heart, lost our backbone, our resolve.

We can't afford to fail in Iraq. No matter how you voted, or no

matter how many mistakes have been made, or no matter how you spin it,

we can't afford to fail. We can't afford to retreat. We can't afford to

leave early. There is a lot at stake. The enemy is real. The enemy is

all over the place.

I am a member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee,

have been since we established the Department of Homeland Security.

Some things I can say, some things I can't say. There are a lot of

people in this country we don't want here, because we are free, because

there are 2,000 miles along the Mexican-U.S. border, because there are

5,500 miles along the Canadian-U.S. border, because there are 12,000

miles of U.S. coastline, because there are 328 million people that come

across our land border crossings each year, because there are 71

million people that come in through our international airports from all

over the world. There are 157 land ports of entry.

We have a lot of people coming and going from this country, and now

there are a lot of people in this country that, the truth is, we don't

want them here; that because we are a free country and they haven't yet

done anything wrong here, we don't remove them. We don't line them up

and ship them out until they do something wrong. But I have got to tell

you, we are watching them, because the threats are real.

Hezbollah is the A team in terrorism. They are the source of the

conflict between the Lebanese, well, actually, between Hezbollah and

Israel in Lebanon, because they pirated the country from the Lebanese,

not their fault. That was a huge conflict 2 months ago. Thankfully they

are not warring today, but that is Iranian-based, started next door to

Iraq, still the source of the terrorist insurgents into Iraq.

These threats are real, they are global, and we have to watch our own

southern border.

Let me continue on the southern border. There is a lot of talk about

immigration reform, and we need to continue to carry it out. But I will

tell you, the American people just want to see that southern border

that I mentioned was 2,000 miles long secured. But one thing that we

haven't had much help in is the word getting out of what has happened,

because I want to tell you, as a member of that subcommittee, what has

happened in the last 12 months, because there has been a serious effort

under way to secure the southern border in the last 12 months.

Last week our chairman, Hal Rogers from Kentucky, gave testimony to

our entire leadership at a hearing, and I attended it, that is really

compelling. One of the most important things that the Department of

Homeland Security has done is they ended the policy that had evolved

from 20 years back that was known as catch and release, and replaced it

with a new policy called catch and return.

Now, catch and release said that if you were an illegal immigrant

coming across our southern border, and you were apprehended, you would

be arrested for a misdemeanor charge of illegally entering the United

States and released on your own recognizance depending on your open

court date, and people obviously would not come to court. So thereby

people would gain into our country and disappear into our country and

probably get a bogus Social Security card so that they could be hired

by somebody, and that would constitute the 12 million illegals that we

have here now.

We stopped that policy. In the last 60 days, 99 percent of aliens

apprehended along the southwest and northern borders are detained and

removed from this country. So catch and release was replaced by catch

and remove. A year ago, it was 34 percent were sent back to their

country of origin. Today it is 99 percent, a huge change in the

culture.

Now, let me tell you what that act says, and the gentleman in the

chair knows that better than anybody because of his background. It acts

as a deterrent. What you want in law enforcement is not a perfect

system that catches every single person every single time; you want a

deterrent that is raised a level at which it keeps things from

happening because most of the people get caught.

This is an effective deterrent, because word has spread back through

Central and South America that if you go to all the hassle of getting

to the southern border, and then somehow you get across, I am going to

tell you in a minute that is not as easy as it used to be either, and

you get caught, you will not be released into the United States of

America. You will be held and then sent back to your country of origin.

Once that word spreads, a whole lot less people come because they don't

want to go to the hassle and the risk of dying or being injured or

whatever, and then not be released into our country.

But it was so easy for so long that it happened so often, and we

ended up with 12 million. As a matter of fact, in July of this year

alone, our Border Patrol apprehended 66,000 illegal aliens along the

Mexican border, a staggering number in 1 month, 66,000 illegal aliens.

But, guess what? That was 31,000 fewer than the previous year in the

same month. Word is getting out: we are not going to allow you to stay;

don't come here illegally.

Yet we are going to come up with, I believe before the end of this

year, not only strengthened border security in a meaningful way, which

is well under way with 6,000 National Guard troops. $21.2 billion has

been spent on the southern border in the last 12 months. $21.2 billion,

on everything from agents to detention beds.

We now have 13,000 agents and 4,000 new detention beds, 1,500 new

Border Patrol agents, for over 13,000 agents and 6,000 Guardsmen. That

is 18,000 people on the southern border, catching these people by the

minute and sending them home and getting the word out: you are not

going to be released into this country. It is an effective deterrent.

Things are changing.

But I do believe by the end of the year we are not only going to have

additional legislation to continue the fence, sometimes it is visible,

sometimes it is not because you can have a protective barrier by using

the latest in technology depending on the frequency of people coming,

but we are also, I believe, going to come up with some kind of a guest

worker plan, so that the work gets done in agriculture, in

construction, that needs to be done; but everybody is going to know.

You have got to identify yourself and have a real card, biometrically

certified, that this is you. Employers are going to have a period of

time to comply, or there will be serious enforcement. I believe we are

going to deliver this whole thing by the end of the year.

But the border is much more secure than it was a year ago. Tremendous

progress has been made.

More Members have come to join me. When the gentleman from Texas is

ready, I want to yield time to him, because few people have the

experience that he has, both in the law and being from the State of

Texas on this particular issue of border security.

Let me also say that the Department of Homeland Security is going to

roll out this month, in September, a multi-billion dollar border

security technology and tactical infrastructure program called SBI Net,

a program that is

committed to obtaining control of the borders within the next 5 years.

What they are doing now in the Science and Technology Directorate at

the Department of Homeland Security under the incredibly capable

leadership of Admiral Cohen is deploying finally all the abundant

technology that we have. Even Thomas Friedman, who wrote ``The World is

Flat,'' has had to amend his book to say, I overlooked a lot of

technology that exists in this country.

We are now taking that technology to the border to put it to use

through the Department of Homeland Security to secure the border and

biometrically certify people.

Now, we don't want a national ID card, but we want people who are

coming here to work to have a card that shows that is them. I believe

that is going to be part of this more comprehensive solution. I don't

want to even use the word ``comprehensive solution,'' because the

Senate passed a bill earlier this year that they called comprehensive

immigration reform that is going to cause many, many, many more

problems than it is going to solve.

So we don't want to be associated with that comprehensive approach.

We want to say that we want a guest worker plan with border security

and get it done, and we are getting it done.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr.

Gohmert).

I thank the gentleman, and in closing, let me say this. I

am not the most partisan person here at all. As a matter of fact, I

don't think either party has an exclusive on integrity or ideas. I grew

up a Democrat, and now I'm a Republican.

Argue with us about the role of the Federal Government in education

and whether it is best at the local level, the State level or Federal

level. Argue with us whether the health care system should be turned

over to the government or private.

But don't argue with us whether we are fighting these threats of

global jihadism and whether we unite anymore at the water's edge in

defense of liberty. Don't argue with us on that. Join us. Be patriotic

and honor the sacrifice and the legacy of the Greatest Generation.