Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. For a moment there

I thought you were introducing someone else. But I appreciate the

compliment, however misguided it may be. We in America are so seemingly

secure in our rights, our liberties, our

God-given constitutionally recognized rights, that we too often

cursorily scan our Nation's foundational truths which secure those

liberties.

We also as a young Nation far too often have a disdain for history,

because since our inception, our eyes always have been fixed forward,

towards the progression of our Nation and the expansion of liberty to

our fellow Americans. We also, because of the size of our country and

its vast beauty, tend to overlook world geography and the relative

situation of other nations to each other.

We cannot do that any longer. We cannot ignore the mistakes of past

history. We cannot ignore the realities of geography. And we cannot

ever endeavor to forget our own history. As the gentleman pointed out,

we call each other in this house ``honorable,'' and rightly so. For we

are all people who have been elected to serve our fellow Americans.

And he rightly pointed out the remarks of the gentleman, the

distinguished and honorable gentleman from New York (Mr. Rangel). He

could not have pointed to a finer example. Because Mr. Rangel not only

serves his Nation in this Chamber; Mr. Rangel also is a decorated

veteran who served his Nation in a foreign war.

I bring up history to Mr. Rangel because like the gentleman from

Tennessee and the gentlewoman from North Carolina, to Mr. Rangel

history has a way of revealing the elemental truths of a Nation to

itself however unwilling we may be at the time to recognize them, for

the very same Mr. Rangel who defended our Nation abroad, had ancestors

in this country who were enslaved by the government and the people of

this Nation.

The gentleman from Tennessee and the gentlewoman from North Carolina

and myself doubtless had relatives in the United States at the time of

the Civil War who were sworn enemies who endeavored to kill each other.

Yet because of the foundational truth of this Nation, we stand here

today recognizing each other as honorable and joined in the peaceful

resolution of our political disputes, because where there is liberty,

there is a chance to transcend history to a better tomorrow. In our

Nation's history, we have always done so.

When we look abroad, we can go back to the past of that great

conflagration that emancipated a race and forged a more perfect Union,

to what we are trying to do today. For it is by remembering that in the

age of industrialization America could not endure half slave and half

free that we realize in an age of globalization our world cannot endure

half slave and half free.

When we face the grim contest, the unsought struggle in which we find

ourselves against Jihadist fascism, which is more akin to a death cult

than any governing political philosophy, we can trace the strain of our

own trials and tribulations to ensure more perfect liberty to ourselves

and to the efforts that young men and women of our military and our

State Department and others are trying to expand throughout the globe,

because we know that America's security rests in the promotion of

liberty.

We face an enemy that seeks to enslave the globe under its warped

worship of death. If we fail in the task before us in the Middle East,

if we allow the newly emancipated people of Iraq, the newly emancipated

people of Afghanistan, to be thrown to the wolves at their door, and

allow Iraq to evolve back into a state sponsor of terror, if we allow

the Taliban and its bloodthirsty ilk to again rule Afghanistan and turn

female parliamentarians back into property, slavery will have consumed

them, and our liberty will be imperiled.

When we look at the efforts of Ahmadinejad and Chavez, we see a

common union between oppressors. We see that the Iranian President

would seek to impose the oppression that he puts upon his own people,

and his common link with the Venezuelan oppressor of his own people. It

would be easy at this point in time to see Mr. Chavez is nothing but a

third-rate Castro clone, but he is not, because while Mr. Chavez may

seem to us to be a bit of a caricature, he is actually a very cunning

individual, as is the President of Iran.

The President of Iran, I believe, has a very good grasp of geography.

The President of Iran understands that while we have helped to expand

liberty on the frontiers of Iran in places such as Afghanistan and

Iraq, which have put nascent democracies on his doorstep, he needs only

to look to South America to see the conditions of poverty and

oppression that are rife within that continent and seek to prey upon

them by joining league not with duly elected democratic governments

that are out to better the quality of lives of their people, but he

joins hands with Hugo Chavez to attack the President of the United

States, to attack the United States of America, to distract both their

citizens, citizens of both countries, from the reality that it is they

who are oppressing them, not the United States, who is emancipating

them.

If we look at our southern border and the absence of security, the

comity between Mr. Ahmadinejad and Mr. Chavez is clear, and the danger

to our security becomes clear. If we have, as some reports lead us to

believe, indications of Jihadist fascism in South America, in Mexico,

in other places, that are willing to cross the border, or joining with

gangs to cross the border, it is painfully obvious to see that what the

President of Iran will do is export his version of worldwide slavery,

through the person of Mr. Chavez, with the assistance of the Cuban

dictator Fidel Castro, and try to utilize our lax and porous southern

border to help these individuals infiltrate the United States.

You see, we may not know geography, we may not learn the lessons of

history of how dictators band together to attack free people, and we

may be devoid of our own knowledge of our own responsibilities to each

other and to our fellow citizens, but our enemies are not. Our enemies

believe our strengths are our weaknesses. It is up to us to prove them

wrong.

For as every generation of Americans before us, when faced with a

challenge to their own liberty and security, have met that challenge

directly, they have defeated it, and they have expanded liberty to

their fellow human beings abroad.

I have no doubt we will continue to do the same, because as Americans

it has been our tradition, and it is our duty, and we have never

shirked from our duty as a free people.

Mr. Speaker, I know our time is short. I thank the

gentleman.

I wish to emphasize why, as the gentleman from Texas pointed out, our

border security efforts to date have been a good step, but they must be

increased.

History shows us that once before an enemy of the United States, the

communist Soviet Union and its Bolshevik dictators, joined league with

the communist Castro on the island of Cuba to plant nuclear weapons 70

miles off the United States shores.

What a sad irony in history it would be for the United States today

to see a dictator in Tehran join league with the oppressive dictator

Mr. Chavez in Venezuela to potentially place nuclear devises within

America's borders.

I think we should look back to what President Kennedy talked about

when he addressed the Cuban missile crisis in order to steel ourselves

for the struggles ahead. President Kennedy pointed out that America

does not keep its word only when it is easy. America does not keep its

word only when it is easy. And while the price of freedom is always

high, Americans have always paid it.

I am convinced that if we learn from the lessons of histories and

from the successes of individuals like President Kennedy, from his

commitment to defending this Nation, to the expansion of liberty, we

ourselves will see the day where both Cuba and Venezuela and the people

of Iran are free.