As always, it is an honor to speak on this floor where

so much history has been made, where, after Pearl Harbor, President

Franklin Roosevelt stood here in this Hall and announced that was a day

that would live in infamy. There have been some great Americans from

different walks of life, ages, races who do great things in this Hall.

Sometimes we have to take a look and have some time of self-

examination; and 9/11--yesterday, 10 years after the worst attack in

American history on our soil--is a good time to really take inventory

of where we are, what have we learned, what have we done.

We know that we have five who helped organize 9/11. They're being

held at Guantanamo Bay. The man who acknowledges his role--and most say

he was the leader, the instigator--Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, is there, a

very smart man. He can still be smart and be crazy. A very smart man.

At a lengthy hearing during which he was interviewed by the judge in

the military commission trial down at Guantanamo Bay--I've been there a

couple of times. The design of that courtroom is absolutely ideal for

the kind of trial that was to take place there of those five

defendants, but they announced they intended to plead guilty back in

December of 2008. That was before the new administration, including our

Attorney General, Eric Holder, indicated that we wanted to give them a

trial in New York City, itself. We wanted to bring those people to the

heart of Manhattan, where some estimated it would cost not merely

millions but potentially hundreds of millions for the security to have

that trial there.

And the fact was they had already announced they were going to plead

guilty. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed made very, very clear in a lengthy

interview there in court--it's on the record, and we have the verbatim

interview. He, under oath, such as it was, admitted enough detail. It

was very clear this man was behind the killing of thousands of

Americans on 9/11.

He is smart enough that he did his own translation and filed his

pleading in response. The judge in the case before this administration

took over was kind enough to declassify this pleading, and it can be

found on my Web site at gohmert.house.gov. It can be found in a number

of places. The things he says are extraordinary. Of course, he blames

the United States.

But just in case there are people, Mr. Speaker, that wonder do we

really have the right guys that organized, planned, plotted to kill

innocent fathers and mothers and children there at the World Trade

Center, at the Pentagon, and, yes, apparently even here at our Nation's

Capitol that some say is the most recognized building in the entire

world, well, he says--and he quotes from the Koran.

Thank God, most Muslims do not believe ``jihad'' means what the

radicals believe. But make no mistake, just as it was in Afghanistan

when the radical Islamists--the Taliban--took over Afghanistan,

moderate Muslims were at risk because, to some like the Taliban, if you

don't believe in Islam and the Koran exactly like they do, then you're

eligible for a capital offense.

You can be put to death. You're not a proper believer. You could be

cast aside as an infidel.

So moderate Muslims are every bit as much at risk--even more so at

times--than the rest of us infidels, according to the likes of Khalid

Sheikh Mohammed.

He quotes from the Koran in his pleading. It says: ``In God's book,

verse 9, Al-Taubah, Then fight and slay the pagans wherever you find

them, and seize them and besiege them, and lie in wait for them in each

and every ambush.''

Down at the bottom of page 4 of his pleading, he says: ``We do not

possess your military might, not your nuclear weapons''--and

parenthetically, I would interject, not yet. Iran is working on that,

and certainly we can expect the terrorists will have the nuclear

weapons once Iran has them.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, on behalf of himself and the other

codefendants, said, ``Nevertheless, we fight you with the almighty God.

So if our act of jihad and our fighting with you cause fear and terror,

then many thanks to God because it is him that has thrown fear into

your hearts, which resulted in your infidelity, paganism, and your

statement that God had a son and your Trinity beliefs.''

Now, according to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a radical Islamist, the

mere belief or statement that God had a son or that there is a holy

Trinity is a capital offense worthy of the death penalty because you

have associated some other person or entity with God.

Then he quotes from the Koran. He says, God stated in his book, verse

151, Al-Umran: ``Soon shall we cast terror into the hearts of the

unbelievers for that they join companies with Allah, for which he has

sent no authority. Their place will be the fire, and evil is the home

of the wrongdoers.'' So once again, in his own legal pleadings, Khalid

Sheikh Mohammed, on behalf of himself and four other codefendants,

makes clear he felt like they were justified in inflicting capital

punishment on what those of us who are somewhat sane in the world would

say was an act of hatred, an act of war, an act worthy of the death

penalty, itself.

He goes on. There's quite a bit here in his six-page pleading, but he

quotes from the Koran again: ``God has stated in his book, verse 14,

Al-Hashir, They fight not against you even together except in fortified

townships or from behind walls. Their enmity among themselves is very

great. You would think they are united, but their hearts are divided.

That is because they are a people who understand not.''

He's right about that. As we have people who have tried to stand up

and say these guys are thugs, they're hateful, they're evil, they

deserve the death penalty for what they have admitted under oath in

court that they did, they deserve the death penalty, we have people

running around saying, no, no, no. Let's give them a show trial. Let's

spend hundreds of millions of dollars to give them a show trial so they

can spew their venom and their hatred out on all of the airways. That's

not what they deserve.

Under our system of justice--and people need to understand, Mr.

Speaker, we go by the Constitution. And there is only one Court created

in the Constitution that is not created by the United States Congress,

and that is the Supreme Court. As my constitutional law professor used

to make very clear, David Gwinn, he would say, if Congress has the

power to create every court in the country, they have the power to

dissolve them. They are congressionally created courts. Only the

Supreme Court is a court they can't mess with the jurisdiction; that's

set aside for them in the Constitution.

We have the power under the Constitution to set up military

commissions, tribunals. The Bush administration made a mistake in

initially trying to set up a military commission on its own. That was

not constitutionally appropriate. The Constitution gives that power to

Congress. So once that was struck down, then we did it here in Congress

in 2006. Of course, it included some mean-spirited, nasty words about

people like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who rejoiced at the terror

Americans had on 9/11.

They felt like ``enemy combatants'' was just too mean-spirited to

call such a wondrous creature like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Let's be

kinder and gentler with our treatment of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. So in

2009, the Democratically controlled House and Senate passed an

amendment. We watered down ``enemy combatant.'' It was just so harsh

about these fine people. They are now called officially ``unprivileged,

alien, enemy belligerents.'' And I hope they don't take offense of

being called ``enemies''; but since they call us their enemies, then

perhaps it's not too harsh.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, in his pleading, goes on. He says, ``We will

make our materials available to defend and deter and egress you and the

filthy Jews from our countries.'' Yeah, this wonderful creature, Khalid

Sheikh Mohammed, has a real love for our Jewish friends both in the

United States and Israel and around the world. What a good guy. I hope

we didn't offend him by calling him an ``enemy belligerent'' or an

``enemy combatant.''

But he said, ``God has ordered us to spend for jihad in his cause.

This is evident, he says, in many Koranic verses. He goes on, and he

says, ``We ask to be near to God. We fight you and destroy you and

terrorize you. The jihad in God's cause is a great duty in our

religion. We have news for you. The news is--'' these are Khalid Sheikh

Mohammed's words ``--you will be greatly defeated in Africa and Iraq,

and America will fall politically, militarily, and economically. Your

end is very near, and your fall will be just as the fall of the towers

on the blessed 9/11 day.

``We will raise from the ruins, God willing. We will leave this

imprisonment with our noses raised high in dignity as the lion emerges

from his den. We shall pass over the blades of the sword into the gates

of heaven.'' He said, ``So we ask from God to accept our contributions

to the great attack, the great attack on America, and to place our 19

martyred brethren among the highest peaks in paradise.''

``Unprivileged, alien, enemy belligerent,'' according to the

Democratically controlled House and Senate, 2009. He's not an enemy

combatant; he's an unprivileged enemy belligerent who wants to destroy

America.

Now I know there are many Christians that I've heard from who are

really torn over this issue of how a Christian should respond to

hateful, evil attacks as we experienced on 9/11.

Some say, well, Jesus talked about turning the other cheek. Indeed he

did. His Beatitudes that he gave in his Sermon on the Mount make clear

that war is not something an individual is supposed to declare on

another individual. And I don't try to impose my religious beliefs on

somebody else, but it's important to have these discussions since we,

for a little while longer, have the freedom of speech and freedom of

religion even if we're not radical Islamists. So for a little while

longer we can discuss this publicly.

Anyone who believes the New Testament has to believe the book of

Romans as well. And when you get to Romans 13:4 and it says, if you do

evil, be afraid, it says, for our government is God's minister to you

for good. But if you do evil be afraid, for our government does not

bear the sword in vain. Our government is God's minister, an avenger to

execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Those of us who believe all that's in the New Testament also believe

Jesus' words that God does work things all together for good for those

who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose.

I don't know what all good things will come from this act of sheer

evil and hatred on 9/11, that much hate that could bring down that many

people and that much in the way of structure on the heads, on the

bodies of innocent men and women, but I do know we should learn

lessons.

This government, whether you're a Christian, a Muslim, whether you're

of the Jewish faith, whatever your faith,

you have to understand, there needs to be a government in order to

maintain order in society because this is not a perfect world and

people are not perfect, and there will always be people bent on evil,

bent on no good, and people who want to live in peace have to have

governments in order to keep them safe as safe can be in a world where

people exist who want to do evil.

Jesus did say, Blessed are the peacemakers, but he also said, you

know, if you say Racca, which was a crime back then, an offense, you'll

have to answer to the courts. He anticipated there had to be an orderly

government where people had to answer for their offenses and crimes

against others.

This is the government. We, the people of the United States, are the

government, and every couple of years, there's a hiring day when people

are supposed to examine the resumes, examine the backgrounds of those

applying for the job to be servant. It's a hiring day. And we have a

huge percentage of people who don't come out and even participate even

though they're the government and they're supposed to hire servants to

come in here and do the job of protecting them. That's the government's

role.

On 9/11, we had people who did evil. If you believe Romans, they

should be afraid. And there is nothing prohibitive in our United States

Constitution of someone who is an enemy of the United States, is not an

American citizen, being tried in a military commission or tribunal as

long as it's set up by the Congress. There is nothing unconstitutional

about that no more than there is anything unconstitutional about the

U.S. Government trying people in the United States military under the

Uniform Code of Military Justice. There's nothing inappropriate about

that under our Constitution. That's why, in my 4 years in the Army,

people I knew were court-martialed, and they were tried under those

rules that would not meet the requirements for someone who was not in

the military.

But the Constitution anticipates different people in different

circumstances could have different types of trials. Nothing

unconstitutional about that. And someone who is a foreign enemy of the

United States, who commits, participates, aids, abets, encourages an

act of war against the United States is worthy of being tried in a

military tribunal, a military commission, and he's worthy of being put

to death if capital punishment is the judgment of the tribunal or the

commission.

What is not worthy is people coming in and intervening when

defendants who were responsible, admittedly, over and over, for killing

3,000 Americans, and they're ready to plead guilty, they are pleading

guilty, and they come in and say, Oh, not so fast. We want to give you

a pulpit to spew your venom and hate and pay lots and lots of money.

That's not worthy of this government. That's the way you lose

countries, when people will not stand up when they are the government

and defend the people they are charged with defending.

Our role is to provide for the common defense against all enemies,

foreign and domestic, and that means people like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

and others who would try to destroy this country and our freedoms. It

should not happen.

Do we wonder, some people say, well, it's so inappropriate to talk

about Christianity at all. The Founders, we're told sometimes, they

never meant for that kind of thing to go on. Well, let's see.

I know, in my 4 years in the Army, I never had an officer who ordered

that it was a violation, and it was a violation of his orders, to take

God's name in vain. We'd have had a lot of people being court-martialed

if that had been the case back when I was in. And I imagine that's true

today.

But Washington felt that we could not expect God to bless us and

protect us and to help in the revolution if we were taking his name in

vain, or soldiers were at the same time they were asking for his

blessing. Washington said so many things. But he also ordered, this is

an order of May 2, 1778, to the troops at Valley Forge, Commander-in-

Chief, and these are Washington's signed orders:

Commander-in-Chief directs that divine service be performed every

Sunday at 11:00 in each brigade which has a chaplain. Those brigades

which have none will attend the places of worship nearest to them. It

is expected that officers of all ranks will, by their attendance, set

an example for their men. While we are zealously performing the duties

of God, citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive

to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of

patriot, it should be our highest glory to laud the more distinguished

character of Christian.

And he did capitalize the word ``Christian.''

We're not advocating that everybody in America should be a Christian,

because we have freedom to do whatever we wish--worship, not worship.

But it is not right to try to rewrite history to say the things that

happened did not happen, the things that we were founded on did not

happen.

Jefferson and Madison both attended church just down the hall each

Sunday they were in Washington, D.C., at the biggest church in the

District of Columbia, held in the House of Representatives.

Thomas Jefferson not only did not think it was inappropriate or

unconstitutional to have a nondenominational Christian worship service

in the House of Representatives, but he often had the Marine Band come

play hymns for their worship services. He's the guy that coined the

phrase, ``separation of church and state.''

When you hear someone say there's a wall of separation that the

Constitution says we must have, that the Constitution says we must have

separation of church and state, you know, you may be dealing with an

intelligent person, but you're dealing with an ignorant person, because

those things are not in the Constitution. They were in a letter written

to the Danbury Baptists by Thomas Jefferson.

How about John Quincy Adams? He wrote this September, 1811: ``So

great is my veneration for the Bible and so strong my belief, that when

duly read and meditated on, it is of all books in the world that which

contributes most to make men good, wise and happy--that the earlier my

children begin to read it, the more steadily they pursue the practice

of reading it throughout their lives, the more lively and confident

will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens of their country,

respectable members of society.''

And that's a man who believed he was called to run for the House of

Representatives after he was defeated for a second term for President.

Or how about this general order: ``President, Commander in Chief of

the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the

Sabbath by the officers and men in the military and naval service. The

importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred

rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the

best sentiment of a Christian people, and a due regard for the Divine

Will demand that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the

measure of strict necessity.''

By the way, this was Abraham Lincoln, his order as Commander in

Chief. He said: ``The discipline and character of the national forces

should not suffer nor the cause they defend be imperiled by the

profanation of the day or name of the Most High.

``At this time of public distress,'' adopting the words of Washington

in 1776, ``men may find enough to do in the service of God and their

country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality.''

Abraham Lincoln also in 1863 said this: ``We have forgotten God. We

have forgotten the gracious hand that preserved us in peace, and

multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly

imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings

were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

``Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-

sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too

proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then to humble

ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins and

to pray for clemency and forgiveness.''

We have such a rich heritage. But we need to understand where we come

from if we're going to understand where we're going.

How about Franklin D. Roosevelt's prayer on June 6, 1944, D-day, when

he knew thousands of Americans were being killed on the beaches of

Normandy. And he led the Nation in prayer over the radio, an emotional

prayer it is. It can be found online without a problem.

Jefferson's memorial shows this quote: ``God who gave us life gave us

liberty. And can the liberties of a Nation be thought secure when we

have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the

people that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for

my country when I reflect our God is just; that His justice cannot

sleep forever.''

I don't know what good God will work from the evil terror of 9/11.

But I know something I saw on 9/11 and on 9/12, and this is the 10th

anniversary of the day we came together as a Nation like I'd never seen

before.

I went into the Army on active duty after Vietnam was over. It was

not a good time to be in the military at all. We were sometimes ordered

not to wear our uniforms off-post at Fort Riley, occasionally Fort

Benning, because of violence that could be inflicted on military

members if they were caught by themselves. It was not a good time. I've

been spit on in uniform. It was not a good time to be in the military.

I really didn't think I would ever see the level of patriotism again

that people saw after World War II.

And then came 9/11. And people in this country that had called police

and law enforcement ``pigs''; people who had been irritated and angry

at fire department personnel because they were slowing things down,

getting in the way; people who were upset with ambulances and EMTs for

getting in their way; people who were upset with the military had a new

profound appreciation like could never have happened without those evil

men committing those acts of hatred.

That night of September 11, 10 years ago, I went to a church I was

not a member of, and we prayed--people from all walks, all ages, all

races--we prayed together. We held hands. We asked God for protection

like the children of Israel did when they knew they had no other place

to turn but than the God Jehovah.

And the next day in our town square, like thousands and thousands of

town squares around America, we gathered, we prayed, we spoke, we sang

``Amazing Grace,'' we sang ``God Bless America. That is a prayer. We

held hands. And it hit me: Martin Luther King, Jr., had a dream of some

day seeing people judged for the content of their character, not the

color of their skin. And as I held hands and looked around at all of

these hundreds of people in our town square holding hands and being of

one heart, it hit me--a small glimpse of the dream he had. And it's

beautiful.

That day there were no Euro-Americans, there were no Anglo-Americans,

African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans. There were no

hyphenated Americans 10 years ago today. We were Americans. May God

grant that we will return to that sense of unity and purpose once

again.

I yield back the balance of my time.