Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee

(Mrs. Blackburn) especially for organizing this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to be here amongst my colleagues for

whom I have such respect and gratitude for the work that they do on a

daily basis to help lead this country in the right direction.

As the gentlewoman from Tennessee mentioned, we are going to talk

about the big picture in the global war on terror, and oftentimes we

lose sight of the big picture. One of the reasons is because we are

watching the news every night, and it seems as though they are setting

up television cameras or movie cameras in Iraq wherever the IEDs might

be planted, and they seem to be able to turn the cameras on seconds

before they detonate an IED and seconds before there is some kind of an

atrocity that takes place over there. That gives us a very narrow

picture of what is going on in Iraq, Mr. Speaker.

But the bigger picture over there is this, and that is that Iraq is a

battlefield in the global war on terror, and we began this 20 years ago

or so. It came home to roost when we all realized September 11, 2001,

that this was not just a sometime enemy, not just an enemy that

attacked the USS Cole or the U.S. embassies in Africa or did the

bombing on the Marine barracks in Lebanon, and the list of those kind

of terrorist attacks went on and on; but it came home to roost in a way

that Americans all understood on September 11, 2001.

The bigger picture of it is this that there is a culture out there

that believes that their path to salvation is in killing people who are

not like them, and I will contend that that organization that is out

there, al Qaeda, also remnants of the Taliban, those that are left, are

really a parasite; and it is radical Islam which is a parasite on the

religion of Islam. Islam itself as mainstream may well be a peaceful

religion, but the parasite that rides on them is not.

The definition of parasite, I would remind you, Mr. Speaker, and the

other listeners as well, it is a species that rides upon the host. The

host is Islam. The parasite is radical Islam, and that parasite species

rides on the host, feeds off the host and reproduces on the host,

sometimes attacks the host and drops off and attacks other species and

sometimes gets picked up back up again and rides on the host again and

starts the cycle all over. That is the case with ticks and mites, the

whole series of parasites that are there throughout all we know in the

animal kingdom, and that is the case also with radical Islam and the

overall religion of Islam.

We are faced with that kind of an enemy, and that enemy has killed a

lot of Christians. That enemy has killed a lot of Jews, but that enemy

has also killed more Muslims than anything else. It gives us a broader

picture, Mr. Speaker, of what this enemy is that we are up against.

But the question we needed to ask ourselves, probably well before

September 11, 2001, and certainly on that date and every date after

that, is how do we conduct a war against a global enemy that is

amorphous, an enemy that does not have uniforms or a territory, maybe

has a leader or group of leaders, an enemy that simply has an ideology

of hatred and terror that comes out and attacks people who are not like

them in order to destabilize and somehow gain their presumably greater

glory and somehow their salvation in the next life, which I think is

down below rather than up above?

Well, as I asked that question subsequent to September 11, 2001, I

had the privilege to be listening to an address by Benazir Bhutto, who

is the former Prime Minister of Pakistan. She served two different

periods of time there, mostly back in the 1990s. She gave an address

back in Storm Lake, Iowa, town of my birth, to Buena Vista University,

a small private university there, and a very excellent one, that tracks

outstanding speakers.

After her profound address, she and I sat down one-on-one, knee-to-

knee, so to speak, and this certainly was on my mind and it is on all

of our minds even today. I asked her how do we get to this point of

victory? How do we bring forth a war on these terrorists to the point

where we can declare victory? What is our objective going to be and how

shall we carry out this and conduct this war to reach this objective?

And she sat for a little while and she said, You have got to give

them a chance at freedom. You have got to give them a chance at

democracy. Today, the people in these countries do not have hope. They

do not have a way to vent their anger. They do not have a way to apply

their energy for change in a constructive fashion with any kind of hope

that they can make progress and make this world a better place for

themselves, their family, their children, and the subsequent

generations.

So, consequently, if we can provide that opportunity, then the

climate that breeds terror will turn into a climate that turns that

energy towards constructive ends, constructive ends where they would be

working to improve their families, their homes, their communities,

their country, their churches, their mosques, their synagogues,

whatever it might be.

As I listened to that, I asked her a series of questions about it for

clarification. I began to think as I drove home that evening this is a

pretty good formula to put Benazir Bhutto back in power in Pakistan,

but I am not convinced that it is a solution on how we could prosecute

and win a war on terror. Yet, I sat down and began to read more and

more about Islam, in particular the book, ``Radical Islam Visits

America'' by Daniel Pipes, and I read that through twice with a red ink

underliner and a highlighter to try to understand the culture, the

religion, the psychology.

I put that together with Natan Sharansky's book, ``In Defense of

Democracy.'' When Natan writes that all human beings have a certain

energy within them that they will use to try to effect a change, and

that they will use that energy if that change is to keep them alive or

if that change is to deal with the minutiae that may seem irrelevant to

people who will struggle just to stay alive.

Then, to understand, that we never go to war against another free

people. Free people do not go to war against free people. So if we put

that into the equation, there is an energy and a drive for change, by

Natan Sharansky. We never go to war against another free people. So to

the extent we can promote freedom and a form of democracy around the

world is also a formula for more peace and more safety for all

Americans and all free people.

We add that then to Daniel Pipes' understanding and to the idea to

promote freedom, and the President's doctrine which he gave out in his

second inaugural address, which now we know as the Bush Doctrine, and

that is, that all people yearn to breathe free, and it is the duty and

it is the obligation of all freedom-loving people to promote freedom

throughout the globe and throughout the ages.

Put that formula all together, and that is the formula for how to

move forward on this global war on terror and how to finally declare

victory.

So we began operations in Afghanistan a couple of months after

September 11 very successfully, and 25 million people that had never

before in that place on the globe gone to the polls to select their

leaders and to direct their national destiny went to the polls and

voted, and there were American troops in the field, especially our

troops that I noticed in the field, guarding those paths to the polls,

guarding those polling sites, and now you have 25 million people in

Afghanistan. Some would say, and there were many detractors over on

this side of the aisle, that said, oh, it is another Vietnam; you will

never be able to get through the Khyber Pass, no one's ever been able

to go into Afghanistan and come out of there having won a victory; that

country has always fought off all of its invaders.

Well, we did not invade them. We liberated them and the Afghani

people now breathe free and have selected their leaders, and the same

formula with the same advisers and the same advice was to go to Iraq

and do the same thing for the same number of people, 25 million people,

and the American soldiers did that and the marines did that and our

airmen and our sailors did that and liberated 25 million people.

They went to the polls three times, Mr. Speaker, in 2005 to select

their leaders, to ratify a constitution and to put a legitimate

government in place, and now they are a sovereign Arab nation in the

Middle East. This sovereign Arab nation has had a difficult struggle,

and the casualties have been by some measures high, not by measures of

previous wars, by measures of the contemporary media. It is tragic to

lose America's best in a struggle like this, but it is the highest

calling.

So, today, Iraqis breathe free, and we think that somehow, because

there is casualties there in the streets of Iraq, it is an intolerable

level in that civilization. I asked the question, how can they tolerate

living in a society with this high level of violence, this high level

of casualties?

So I went back and took a look at the level of casualties that were

there, and they need to be measured as a percentage of the overall

population. We do that, we do that statistically by measuring how many

people out of every 100,000 die a violent death. Well, that would be

murder in most societies; and in Iraq, the civilians would be the

measure, some are victims of IED bombings, some are victims of murder.

We added up those numbers. There are several Web pages that provide

that information. We took the most reasonable numbers that we could

find. It comes to this number: 27.51 Iraqis per 100,000 die a violent

death on an annual basis, 27.51.

Now, what does that mean, and to me it really does not mean a lot

until I compare it to places that I know where I have a feel for the

rhythm of this place. Well, I by now have a feel for the rhythm of this

place called Washington, D.C., and my wife lives here with me. I can

tell you, Mr. Speaker, she is in far greater risk being a civilian in

Washington, D.C., than an average civilian in Iraq.

Forty-five out of every 100,000 Washington, D.C., residents die a

violent death on an annual basis, 45. 27.51 in Iraq out of 100,000, 45

out of every 100,000 in Washington, D.C.

If you go to New Orleans, pre-Katrina, before Katrina, 53 per

100,000, almost twice as many violent fatalities in the city of the New

Orleans than there are in Iraq as an average civilian.

Now, we took out the military, took out the police because they are

involved in combat, but that gives you a measure, Mr. Speaker, of what

is it like in Iraq. The United States military has provided, first of

all, liberation for the Iraqis that were dying at an average rate of

182 a day at the hands of Saddam Hussein, collared him, put him on

trial, took out Zarqawi and gave them a safer, free society than the

society that they lived in.

Statistically, if you want to chart that for the duration of this

operation from the liberation of the Iraqis in March of 2003 until

today, there are over a 100,000 Iraqis alive today because the United

States and coalition forces went into Iraq and took on that calling to

promote freedom throughout the globe. Now, Iraq stands as near the end

of the military security solution of the operation in Iraq, at the

beginning of

the political solution in the operation of Iraq, where now they have a

sovereign Arab government, and they are on the cusp of the solution for

their economics. When they are able to start pumping oil out of that

ground and sending it around the world and cashing the checks, we will

see then this lode star of Iraqi being an inspiration for all the Arab

world. A free Arab world, a prosperous Arab nation, and inspiration for

all the Arab world.

I have to believe that as the Berlin Wall went down on November 9,

1989, and freedom echoed across Eastern Europe, hundreds of millions of

people breathe free today, I have to believe that same kind of

contagious desire for freedom will take place in the Middle East among

the Arab people.

That is the big picture, Mr. Speaker. That is the vision of our

President. That is the sacrifice of our military. That is the

commitment of this Congress, and that is where we are headed. I believe

and I pray that we will arrive there one day soon, and I expect to be

around to celebrate that joyous day. I will stand here with our

military every day until that is accomplished.

Thank you to the gentlewoman from Tennessee. I appreciate this

privilege to address this Chamber and the Speaker.