I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee. She is a real

asset to this Congress, and I am just proud to be able to be with her

tonight to talk about the war on terror.

I live in a district where on any given day we have between 15,000

and 20,000 American heroes standing on that wall protecting freedom in

the United States, in harm's way, giving their lives and limbs and time

so that we can sit here in this House and so that our children and our

wives and our loved ones can walk the streets of the United States

free.

You know, this war on terror is a war on a cancerous idea that is,

when you really think about it, is really one of the most horrible,

horrible things there is; that there is a group of people that are

fighting a war not against military soldiers as proud warriors marching

off to war. No. In fact, they do not want to even see an American

soldier anywhere near them, if they can help it. They want to terrorize

society. And that terrorism, in their way of thinking, starts with

civilians, not military.

We got a real good dose of that on 9/11, a dose that I do not know

how the American people can ever get it out of their minds. When we

were attacked at Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, they attacked our

military installations at Pearl Harbor. But when we were attacked on 9/

11, a building full of business folks was attacked. This was not an

attack on a military target, this was an attack on a civilian target,

and its sole purpose was to kill American citizens.

We need to thank the Lord that their timing was slightly off and that

the building was not completely full. If it had been, instead of

numbering in the thousands we might have been numbering in the hundreds

of thousands of people in those two buildings that might have died. But

that was their purpose. Their purpose was to change how we live by

hitting us where we live. I just can't think of anything more horrible.

You know, I was in the judge business for a while, as were several

people in this room here today, and we know from experience that

there's a lot of evil out there in the world, and we spent our time

trying to deal with that evil. And I think, from what I know of my

colleagues here in the House, we did a pretty good job of fighting

evil. One of the things we did to curtail evil was we put them away,

and we put them down so that the price of being evil was a high price

in the places where we lived. And we are proud of that.

I think the American soldier knows that the hard part of fighting the

war on terror, on fighting people who are really not out to fight them

but are out to fight their children and their wives and their moms and

dads back home, and moms and dads and children of people in Iraq and

Afghanistan and many other countries in this world, the Philippines,

Indonesia, and the list goes on and on and on, they are always

attacking the innocent trying to live their lives.

But what is their theory behind this? I have thought about this. And

I want to say that Mr. King gives some great insight into some of the

things he has read, and I was fascinated by some of the things he had

to say. But I think about this, and what they are really trying to do

is to change the way we live until we just really cannot tolerate

living that way any longer and we are willing to compromise and give in

to what they view as a world view, until their radical Islam dominates

the world.

They want our school children in Texas, or our school children in

Tennessee, or our school children in Iowa to get up in the morning,

every morning, and be afraid to stand at the bus stop, be afraid to

ride on the school bus, be afraid to go to their school for fear that

somebody might blow it up, somebody might shoot at the bus, somebody

might hijack them or kidnap nap them. That is the world they are

developing right now that we are tearing apart right now in Iraq and

Afghanistan.

This is not easy work for our soldiers. Our soldiers are out there in

a special role that soldiers have never been in. Soldiers are trained

to fight soldiers. Soldiers are trained to go onto a battlefield and

fight a battle. And sometimes it is an unconventional battle, and we

are trained to fight unconventional battles. Our soldiers are not

policemen, although some are trained as policemen. Our soldiers

shouldn't be policemen, but today the American Marine on patrol in Iraq

or Afghanistan has a special mission, and that mission is to make sure

that the safety of that population is as safe as the safety he wants

for his population back home.

And he cares about those people. He cares about those kids. A great

story I heard when I was back in Iraq was about a soldier walking down

the street and a little girl comes running out and hands him one rose.

A beautiful rose. He later gave it to a lady at the hospital who told

me the story. She explained, and somebody was able to speak the

language and tell this to the soldier, that that was the only thing

living left in their garden. But she knew he deserved to have that rose

because he was keeping her garden safe. This was a little 10-year-old

girl.

Now, I'm sure that soldier will go for the rest of his life with the

memory of that little girl. And I know sometimes they have to be

standing out there in 115 degree heat with all that armor on and

saying, man, this is a tough job. But that is the kind of thing that

tells us what we are fighting for. We are fighting to protect innocent

human

beings. Not warriors, but to protect innocent human beings from being

terrorized until they surrender their freedom and their will to

terrorism.

That is what terrorists want. That is what they do. They just attack

the innocent until the innocent throw up their hands and say, whatever

you want, you can have it.

And we have examples of how they have done that. Look at Lebanon.

Look at the other places around the world where the terrorists have

just run rampant through the streets until Lebanon, which used to be

called the Riviera of the Middle East, is now an example of destruction

when people use the term Lebanon.

So why are our American soldiers doing this? They are doing their

duty with pride and with conviction. And I will tell my friends on the

other side of the aisle who seem to have this cut-and-run mentality, I

want them to think about the times, and I know they have visited Iraq

and they have to have talked to the same soldiers that I have talked

to, but the soldiers that I talked to are proud of what they are doing

in Iraq. They are confident that they are succeeding in what they are

doing. They do not understand why the American people don't hear about

their successes.

But, folks, even when we don't publicize their successes, they are

having them. This last week has been a huge step forward in the war on

terror because we took out the top terrorist. And from his little

notebook, over the next couple of days we took out 17 other locations.

Today we had another very successful raid. And we are not only getting

rid of the bad guys and punishing them for their misbehavior by putting

them into the Never-Never Land, but we are also capturing things that

tells us more.

So I say to the terrorists: Beware. The American soldiers are coming.

Beware. We are learning every day and we are getting better and we are

learning more and more information about you, and we are coming to get

you. We are going to stop what is going on.

I was real proud to know when Zarqawi was killed that the first

people at the site were my boys in the 4th Infantry Division. Proud of

them. They are the guys who caught Saddam Hussein. They are the guys

who have been up front on every war, as has the 1st Cav. The 1st Cav.

Gave us free elections. The 4th Infantry Division gave us Saddam

Hussein, and now the first people on site after that beautiful job the

Air Force did.

But you know what, the real war on terror, and we need as American

citizens to think about this real strongly, is the first time the

President spoke, I think it was after this thing happened, and he said

what would be our top policy on the war on terror. He said if you help

our enemies, you are our enemy. We are taking the fight to the enemy.

I think that is the right policy. I think the right policy is to say,

we are not going to stand for people who kill innocent civilians no

matter where they are, and we are going to stand up to them. Why?

Because as Prime Minister Blair said right here in this House, it is

our turn. We are the beacon of freedom in the world. We have the

resources, intelligently used, to meet the challenge.

People say, oh, but it is going to be a long war. You know what? I

think it is going to be a long conflict, but it's going to be a

conflict that is going to have a series of battles in it. We are

misdefining Iraq by calling it the war in Iraq. We are misdefining

Afghanistan by calling it the war in Afghanistan. It is the battles in

Iraq, the battle in Afghanistan. And maybe whatever we do in the way of

successes will postpone the next battle.

Folks, we went into what we called the Cold War, and the Cold War

included the battle of Korea and the battle of Vietnam and the battle

of Panama and a lot of other battles that took place. But we won the

Cold War by sticking to the principle that freedom and democracy and

the ability to live your life in a world that was peaceful and loving

was worth fighting for and worth standing up to people who wanted to

change that and put totalitarianism in place of freedom.

We have now got a group of people who are fanatics and who want to

put this radical Islam in place of freedom. And, unfortunately, once

again, we have to stand up and be counted. And we will, as long as we

produce people like I have met at Fort Hood and many other places where

I have gone with the military, these quality young men and women. And

as long as the American people are willing to stand the ground and do

the job we back here have to do to win the war on terrorism, we will

succeed.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the American public realize that the

only thing standing between us and another 9/11 is the will to face the

terrorists' onslaught not only with our troops but with our hearts and

minds in America we should stand up for what is right. There is right

and there is wrong in this world, and imposing the will by terror, by

Islamic terrorists, is wrong.

Standing up for freedom and letting our kids be able to go to the

park and play without fear of terrorism or wander the streets or your

wife to go shopping at the grocery store or you be able to go to work

every day without the fear of terrorism, that is right. It is the

freedom we fought for and died for in this American country, and it is

the freedom the whole world should be able to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say, I am proud to say that I am an

American and that Americans stand for right, I yield back to the

gentlewoman.