Mr. Speaker, Osama bin Laden is dead. Justice delayed

became justice served. And I stand to pay a debt of honor and a debt of

gratitude to all of those who brought us to this day.

The first time most Americans heard Osama bin Laden's name was

perhaps from that podium. Just more than a

week after September 11, we gathered here. President George W. Bush

spoke that name into history. And every day since, it has been clear to

freedom-loving people across this planet that we had to reach this day

to answer for the tragic and brutal events visited upon our country on

September 11.

I rise to pay a debt of honor and a debt of gratitude. I commend

President Barack Obama for his decisive leadership, making the tactical

decisions that were made, as well as providing our troops with the

resources they needed to get the job done and come home safely. I

commend his predecessor, President George W. Bush, whose tenacity and

commitment to the war on terror clearly brought us to this day. I also

commend our intelligence community, who, year upon year, never lost

sight of the demand for justice.

But I mostly rise today to pay a debt of honor and gratitude to the

members of our U.S. Armed Forces, past and present. Those Sunday night

who slid down the ropes and captured and killed Osama bin Laden are in

our hearts, but also those over the last 10 years who have made the

necessary sacrifices in the war on terror, and I rise today to

particularly pay tribute to them.

I was here on 9/11. After we had the opportunity for the roads to

open, I made my way back to our small home in Northern Virginia, and

there, with my wife and our children, 6, 7 and 8, we gathered for a

short family meeting and for prayer before I would come back in to the

Capitol.

My little 6-year-old daughter stopped me in the kitchen as I was

walking to the car and she said, ``Daddy, I have to talk to you.'' I

said, ``I've got to go.'' She said, ``Daddy, I've got to talk to you.''

I said, ``What?'' She said, ``If we have to make a war, do you have to

go?'' And I dropped down on one knee and I threw my arms around that 6-

year-old and I said, ``Daddy's too old.'' But every day since I have

thought of all the daddies and mommies who looked their little ones in

the eye, looked their spouses and their parents in the eye, and they

said, ``I have to go.'' And they went. And some of them didn't come

home.

In the Sixth Congressional District, we have a roll of the fallen

heroes of the war on terror. I recite them today with the deepest

respect and gratitude.

Lance Corporal Matthew Smith of Anderson; Private Shawn Pahnke of

Shelbyville; Specialist Chad Keith of Batesville; Staff Sergeant

Frederick Miller, Jr., of Hagerstown; Sergeant Robert Colvill, Jr., of

Anderson; Specialist Raymond White of Elwood; Lance Corporal Scott

Zubowski of New Castle; Sergeant Jeremy Wright of Shelbyville; Master

Sergeant Mike Heister of Bluffton; Staff Sergeant Michael Bechert of

New Castle; Staff Sergeant Brian Keith Miller of Pendleton; Specialist

Jonathan Lahmann of Richmond; Lance Corporal Layton Crass of Richmond;

Lance Corporal Andrew Whitacre of Bryant; Specialist William Justin

McClellan of New Castle; Private First Class Jaiciae Pauley of Muncie;

Staff Sergeant Phillip Chad Jenkins of Decatur; and Sergeant Jeremy

McQueary of my hometown of Columbus.

This was a victory for freedom. And as much as it belongs to those

who made the decisions, developed the intelligence, who slid down the

ropes and stepped into harm's way Sunday night, this victory belongs to

those who lie in earthen graves in my district and all over this

country who brought it about.

Winston Churchill said,

Today,

I pay a debt of gratitude to a Commander in Chief, present and past,

but to all the members of the Armed Forces who allow us this day to

say: Justice served. Osama bin Laden is dead.