Mr. Speaker, it has been a meaningful and

historic night. But it still deeply concerns me that there are Members

of this body that have been constantly misinforming the public about

pre-war intelligence on Iraq and demanding timetables for troop

withdrawal. They seem to be wholly unaware of the dire consequences of

even talking about pulling our troops out, let alone demanding it.

Our brave men and women in uniform have always fought desperately to

preserve those unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of

happiness endowed by the Creator Himself. And that is exactly what they

are doing now in Iraq, and we should all be deeply grateful for that.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I am so desperately worried about

is whether the people in this body and in this Republic truly

understand what we are facing, not only as a Nation, but as Western

Civilization.

The question we must ask ourselves is not whether we can win this

war. We must win this war. The question now is what will happen if we

do not.

Mr. Speaker, I am so concerned that this Nation does not yet

understand that we are at war with an ideology, an ideology that

threatens the existence of the Free World. This war did not begin on 9/

11. This war began many years ago when certain Muslim extremists

embraced a divergent Islamist dogma that dictates that all infidels

must die.

Our Nation was first attacked during its very early beginnings in the

late 1700s by the Barbary terrorists of the day. More recently, we were

attacked in 1979 in Iran. Our embassy and our marine barracks were

attacked in Beirut in 1983. The first World Trade Center attack was in

1993, Mr. Speaker; and we still did not wake up to what was happening

at the time. Our military complexes and soldiers have been targeted

throughout the world. The Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996. Our

embassies were blown up in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. We witnessed the

attack on the USS Cole in 2000. Mr. Speaker, 1 year later on September

11, terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 American civilians on our own

soil, and I wonder tonight have we forgotten that.

Since then our soldiers and our contractors have been kidnapped and

executed, their bodies mutilated and dragged through the streets.

And we are not alone, Mr. Speaker. This has taken place throughout

the

world. In Serbia and Bosnia, soldiers, POWs, and civilians were

beheaded by mujahideen. In Beslan, Russia, 186 children and 158

teachers and parents were slaughtered in a terrorist assault against a

grade school. And just weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, in Indonesia, three

young girls on their way to school were attacked and beheaded by Muslim

extremists. Their names, Mr. Speaker, their names were Theresia, Ida,

and Alfrita.

Churches are being attacked. Pastors have been kidnapped, tortured,

and beheaded. And it seems there is not a day that goes by without a

suicide or a car bomb attack in Iraq.

We have witnessed the horrific bombings in Spain, London, Indonesia,

Jordan, and Israel. Rioters have completely disrupted hundreds of

cities in France.

We simply cannot deny that we are fighting a war against enemies with

an evil ideology that is bent on the destruction of the Western World.

They are committed to killing us, Mr. Speaker, and any others that hold

in their mind to be infidels.

Mr. Speaker, we truly are at war, and to undermine the sacrifice and

blood-bought advancement of our valiant American soldiers who are at

this very moment fighting terrorists in Iraq and across the world is

unconscionable.

A nation divided against itself simply cannot stand, Mr. Speaker. And

those of us in this body, along with all Americans, must unite against

this evil. We must win the war in Iraq. We must give our troops

unequivocal support and everything else in our power to help them

finish this job. Our troops have never failed us, and we must not fail

them.

Mr. Speaker, if freedom is to survive, to allow Islamist terrorists

to declare war and victory in Iraq is not an option. We must win and we

cannot leave before the job is done. Because if we leave too soon, Mr.

Speaker, we will not be able to go on with our daily lives as we once

did. Because the world has truly changed. And those without conscience

are relentlessly seeking to destroy us, and we must not let them ever

have even the slightest hope of victory. Not ever, Mr. Speaker.