Mr. President, today, Americans and all who long for

justice woke to the good news: nearly 10 years after the United States

set out to kill or capture Osama bin Laden, justice has been done. The

man who orchestrated the 9/11 attacks and who reveled in the horror of

that day is dead. And those who follow his twisted vision are again on

notice: America is in pursuit.

This was a long time coming. For two decades, Osama bin Laden and the

al-Qaida network he created, sustained, and led has been at war with

the United States.

The path of terror extended from the first World Trade Center bombing

to the bombing of the Khobar Towers and the U.S. embassies in Kenya and

Tanzania, to the bombing of the USS Cole, to the horrors of 9/11, and

through two long and difficult wars that followed. 9/11 may have been

the day that this pattern of violence became suddenly and undeniably

clear. But bin Laden's destructive path was already long by then, and

for the past 10 years, America has been determined to bring this

monster to justice.

From the beginning of this fight, the mission has been clear: to deny

al-Qaida and any of its affiliates around the world a sanctuary from

which they could plan, prepare, or launch another attack on U.S. soil.

And the effort to prevent that long-feared attack has been an

undeniable success under two administrations in the ongoing war on

terror.

Yet despite this success, and our early success in Afghanistan, al-

Qaida's senior leadership was able to find a safe-haven in Afghanistan.

A few short years after 9/11 al-Qaida had regained enough strength to

once again pose a serious threat to the United States. Meanwhile, the

Taliban had reestablished its headquarters in Pakistan and had gained

enough strength to return to Afghanistan and to risk the success of our

mission there.

And as the years went by, Osama bin Laden's ability to elude capture

had become a greater source of frustration to us, and a source of

propaganda to his followers.

Over the years, Americans had become all too familiar with bin

Laden's dark pronouncements, from his perverse declaration 3 years

before 9/11 that it was the obligation of every Muslim

. . . to his declaration after 9/11 that he had calculated

the number of innocents he could kill that morning, and that he was the

most optimistic planner of them all.

Last night, those proud pronouncements ended at the barrel of a gun.

The last thing Osama bin Laden saw on this earth was the small team of

Americans who shot him.

So Americans can be proud of the efforts of our military and

intelligence communities, and the focused efforts of two

administrations in fighting al-Qaida, and now, in capturing, its self-

appointed leader.

This is indeed a signal achievement, a huge victory in the war

against terrorism, and a day of great pride for our country. The

President made the right call, and we thank him for it.

We can never bring back those who died on 9/11 or those who have

given their lives in this long and difficult war, but all Americans can

say with renewed confidence today that we have kept our pledge, and

that this is a war we will win.

Some will recall that Osama bin Laden launched this war many years

ago on the false assumption that America didn't have the stomach for

the fight. While it may have taken longer than we hoped, last night he

and his followers learned just how wrong he was. We take great

satisfaction in knowing that Osama bin Laden will no longer be able to

carry out his evil plans, that he has made his last video, and that

whenever someone suggests the United States has grown weary, complacent

in this war, we have shown how determined we are to fight it to the

end.

History is full of fallen despots and madmen who underestimated the

resolve of the United States. Last night, we added one more to their

ranks. But we don't rest, because we know al-Qaida's determination to

attack the United States didn't end on September

11, 2001, and it didn't end last night. We continue to fight, knowing

that al-Qaida remains committed to attacking our homeland and our

allies. We were reminded of this last week when police in Germany

arrested three men associated with al-Qaida who were planning an attack

there.

Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, we have matched

the terrorist threat with the valor of our armed services and

counterterrorism professionals. The men and women of the Central

Intelligence Agency's Counterterrorism Center have unselfishly devoted

themselves to preventing attacks against us and in hunting down bin

Laden. Last night, their determined efforts met with success, and we

are deeply grateful for their efforts.

As for the broader war, the death of bin Laden may create the

opportunity to renew our efforts with Pakistan to bring fresh pressure

on al-Qaida's senior leadership. President Obama noted in his remarks

of last night that it is essential for Pakistan to join us in this

fight. Today is the day to redouble our efforts in pursuit of al-Qaida.

In the coming weeks and months, these same counterterrorism

professionals will focus on determining what bin Laden's death means

for the threat posed by al-Qaida affiliates in Somalia, Yemen, North

Africa, and for the remainder of al-Qaida's senior leadership. But

today the world knows once again that wherever al-Qaida lurks--wherever

they lurk--we will find them. It may not be days from now; it may not

be months. But those who plot harm to innocent Americans and our allies

will be captured or killed. For them too justice will be done.

Anyone who lived through the horror of 9/11 remembers exactly where

they were on that terrible September day. Now they will remember where

they were when they first heard the news that the man behind it had

been killed by brave American forces inside Pakistan. We will remember

where we were when, after years of effort, we finally got our man.

America didn't seek this fight; it came to us. But ever since 9/11, we

have been determined to fight al-Qaida to the end. We knew from the

start it would require patience and great sacrifice, and that effort

has paid off. Thanks to the skill and perseverance of many brave men

and women, we have done what we said. America has not wavered, it has

not lost sight of the mission, and we will prevail.