Mr. President, the Senate has spent little time in

recent weeks discussing Iraq, but we cannot ignore the latest grim news

from this misguided war. The Associated Press reported this week that

2007 is now the deadliest year in Iraq for U.S. troops--even though we

still have almost 2 months of this year remaining. I will ask that the

article be printed in the Record.

According to a recent Associated Press count at least 3,858 Americans

have been killed and 28,385 Americans have been wounded in Iraq. We are

fast approaching two very grim milestones--4,000 killed and 30,000

casualties. We should stop and consider the implications of these

numbers. I grieve for those who are lost and wounded, and I am all the

more determined that no more of our brave men and women should be

killed in a war that has no end in sight and is not making our country

safer.

Instead of acknowledging that these sad milestones are indications of

a failed policy, the administration is once again digging it in heels.

Lately, it has been talking about the recent decline in U.S. deaths as

a justification for continuing its open-ended military policies in

Iraq.

The American people are not fooled by these claims of success. They

know all too well that the President's policies are simply buying time,

and they continue to reject them. A recent ABC News/Washington Post

poll illustrates that a majority of Americans are still calling for a

change of course in Iraq. 59 percent of Americans think we're not

making significant progress in Iraq and 6 out of 10 that's 60 percent

of Americans want the level of U.S. forces reduced. And yet, the

President ignores the wishes of the public, offering a small, token

drawdown of forces in the near future but no timeline as to when

significant numbers of troops will come home.

If the goal of the surge was to provide a window for political

reconciliation, as the President outlined last January, victory remains

elusive. Meanwhile, Al-Qaida has reconstituted and strengthened itself

along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region at the same time while we

have been focused on fighting a war in Iraq. The President likes to say

that Iraq is the central front in the war on terror instead of fixing

all his attention on Iraq, he needs to address what is happening

hundreds of miles to the east.

Again and again, the American people have once again voiced their

opinion that this war makes no sense and that they expect us uphold our

congressional responsibilities and use our power to end it. It is bad

enough to have the President disregard the American people by

escalating our involvement in Iraq. Despite the efforts of Democratic

leaders, Congress is also ignoring the will of the American people.

And so I urge my colleagues not to allow Iraq to remain on the

congressional backburner. We cannot say we've done everything possible

to end the war--we cannot say we are acting on our constituents' top

concern--when we are not discussing, not debating, and certainly not

voting on Iraq.

We cannot afford to sideline this critical issue at a time when we

are close to reaching 4,000 American men and women killed and 30,000

wounded in a misguided, never-ending war. It is a war that will

continue through the waning days of this administration unless we

summon our congressional power to end it. It is a war that we cannot

sit back and doing nothing about. It is a war that has cost over half

trillion dollars, stretched our military to the breaking point, and

made us less safe. It is an unacceptable war.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the article from the

Associated press to which I referred be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in

the Record, as follows: