Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Pennsylvania

for talking about what our people with boots on, on the ground in Iraq,

are saying and what they are seeing.

I think it is important that we talk to them about the feelings in

America because some people might get a misimpression if they listened

to people who actually put forward the idea that we would cut and run

from something that was started for all the right reasons--to protect

Americans.

The President, knowing what happened on 9/11, was determined that he

was not going to have another terrorist attack on America with weapons

of mass destruction. That is why we went into the Middle East. We took

on Saddam Hussein, who was known to have, from many different sources,

weapons of mass destruction.

So we are there, and our troops are doing a great job. We are

building the confidence in Iraq. You can see it from the people who are

voting with their feet. They are walking to the polls and voting. Even

under threat of death, they are working to establish a democracy. They

are defying the terrorists. They know what the terrorists are doing to

their country, and they are fighting back. And we are going to stand

and fight with them, as we promised we would do.

I want to talk about this picture. It says more than any words ever

could. Michael Yon is a former Green Beret who has been out of the

service for years. He is also a gifted photographer and writer. He was

embedded in Iraq for 9 months earlier this year. He learned about the

area, the people, the unit in which he was embedded, and the situation

in Iraq. His photographs capture an honest and inspiring message about

our soldiers' service in Iraq, the mindset of the terrorists we are

fighting, and what this war is all about.

I would like to read Michael's own words describing what happened on

Saturday, May 14, 2005, in Mosul, just before he took this

heartbreaking picture:

Mr. President, it is stories like this one that reaffirm why

Americans are so proud of our troops and proud of the Iraqi people for

embracing democracy and supporting our efforts to defeat terrorism.

U.S. troops are not seen as occupiers, as some in our country would

have you believe. Our soldiers are standing beside Iraqi forces, and

their sacrifice to win the war on terror will never be diminished.

We are fighting an enemy who is willing to make a point of killing

innocent children. There will be no freedom if we cut and run. We know

why we are there, and we will complete the mission.

This story shows so much about how our troops feel. And if any person

in this country talks to troops who have returned from Iraq, they will

tell you similar stories about the feelings of the Iraqi people. Iraqis

often are under threat of death if they are talking to American

soldiers or trying to do something productive that would move their

country forward, such as voting on a constitution, which they did in

droves. They are standing firm despite the threats.

Our troops are going through the process of teaching the Iraqi police

and the Iraqi soldiers how to help themselves, how to work the

equipment, and how to counter insurgents who would wait until children

are in the picture before choosing to blow themselves up.

This is an enemy that we must not let stay on this Earth. We must

eradicate it wherever it is. And we must make sure that it does not

come to America because if this enemy would wait until children are

surrounding our soldiers to do their heinous crimes, what would they do

if they came back to America to attack our people? How heinous would

their crimes be here?

Our President is trying to make sure they do not have that

opportunity, that they will not be able to perpetrate their horrible

and indecent acts against the people of America on our soil. Our

President is taking every step to assure that Americans are secure.

So I think it is time for us to stop the partisan bickering. No one

in their right mind would suggest that this is a time for America to

turn and run. So let's try to work together to make sure we are doing

everything possible to help the Iraqi people get on their feet, hold

their elections, and begin the process of self-government.