

Congressman Wally Herger

"Winning the War on Terror"

Speech on the Floor of the House of Representatives

June 15, 2006

Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001 proved that our enemy is determined to kill Americans.

Instead of sitting idle, our nation went on the offense. We removed the Taliban from power in Afghanistan. We removed a regime in Iraq that had invaded neighbors and financed terrorism. And we have kept terrorists on the run, limiting their avenues of attack, disrupting their finances, and eliminating safe houses around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, it's not by coincidence that our nation has not suffered another attack here at home.

Some have doubts about our mission in Iraq. But I believe Americans can find solace in the midst of sacrifice, and hope in the midst of hardship. The reason is simple -- we are clearly on the road to victory and success in Iraq, and our nation is safer today because of it.

Since the fall of Saddam's regime, 70 percent of eligible Iraqis for the first time in history elected a national unity government. They have ratified a democratic Constitution for the first time ever. And they helped us eliminate al Qaeda mastermind Zarqawi.

Mr. Speaker, progress in Iraq makes America safer. Terrorists are being pursued -- not harbored. We've seen movement toward democracy in neighboring countries. Work remains, but freedom is making progress. And freedom, Mr. Speaker, lays the foundation for a more secure future for America.

Mr. Speaker, I've also had the privilege of visiting our troops in Iraq. They are outstanding young men and women, and they overwhelmingly believe in their mission. I urge my colleagues to offer their unqualified support to our troops abroad until their mission is complete.