

Mr. Speaker, our brave men and women in uniform have always fought desperately to preserve those unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that is endowed by the Creator himself. And that is exactly what they are doing right now in Iraq, and we should all be deeply grateful for that, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things that I am desperately worried about is whether the people in this body and in this republic itself truly understand what we are facing, not only as a Nation, but as a 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 really 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 beginnings in the late 1700s by the Barbary terrorists of the day. And 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. 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 Tanzania and Kenya in 1998. We witnessed the attack on the USS *Cole* in 2000.

And Mr. Speaker, just 1 year later, on September 11, terrorists murdered 3,000 American civilians on our own soil. And I wonder, have we actually forgotten that? Since then our soldiers and contractors have been kidnapped and executed, their bodies mutilated and dragged through the streets. And we are not alone, Mr. Speaker. This is taking place throughout the world. In Serbia and Bosnia, soldiers, POWs and civilians were beheaded by Mujahadin. In Beslan, Russia, 186 children and 158 teachers and parents were slaughtered in a terrorist attack against a grade school. And just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, in Indonesia, three young

girls on their way to school were attacked and beheaded by Muslim extremists. Their names were Theresa, Ida and Alfreda. Churches are being attacked. Pastors have been kidnapped, tortured and beheaded, and it seems there is not a day that goes by without some suicide bomber or some car bomb attack in Iraq. And we have witnessed the horrific bombings in Spain and London and Indonesia and Jordan and Israel. And just today, Mr. Speaker, in Bangladesh. 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 and any others they hold to be infidels. Mr. Speaker, we truly are at war, and to undermine the sacrifice and blood-bought advancements of our valiant American soldiers who are, at this very moment, fighting terrorists in Iraq is unconscionable, Mr. Speaker.

A Nation divided against itself cannot stand. Those of us in this body, along with all Americans, must unite against this evil. We must win this war in Iraq. We must give our troops our unequivocal support, and we must give them everything else in our power to

finish this job. Our troops have never failed us, and Mr. Speaker, we, in this body must not fail them. If freedom is to survive, to allow Islamist terrorists to declare victory in Iraq is not an option. We must win and we cannot win if we leave before this job is done, because if we leave too soon, Mr. Speaker, we will not be able to just go on about our daily lives as we once did because the world truly has changed, and those without conscience are relentlessly seeking to destroy us. And we must not let them have even the slightest hope of victory, not ever, Mr. Speaker. God bless America.