war from that against the terrorists. The enemy in each conflict has different goals. The al Qaeda terrorist group wishes to establish a Muslim caliphate throughout the entire Middle East. The Iraqi insurgents' goal is to cause the existing Iraqi government to fail and to establish Sunni dominance in Iraq.

The Sunni Arab insurgency remains strong and viable. The sectarian violence overlays this initial struggle with the sectarian leaders such as Muqtada al-Sadr in the wings of the Shiite groups. On September 4, 2002, and again on March 18, 2003, before we invaded Iraq, I wrote the President warning of the instability in the months following the initial coalition victory.

Sadly, my warnings were of Cassandra-esque value. They were not heeded by the administration. So there we are, two conflicts, two wars, and the two should not be confused.

There are those who attempt to fuzz the two conflicts together as the war on terror, but the wars are truly separate and distinct. With the help of NATO troops, we made significant gains in Afghanistan, but these are in danger of being overturned if we relax our focus.

The picture is not so rosy in Iraq, which calls for a different policy and a different approach to bring about stability and representative government. The recent Pentagon report is not encouraging.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LABOR DAY 2006: TOUGH TIMES IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the United States is spending $250 million a day in Iraq, over $11 million an hour. This week, as we celebrated Labor Day across this country, President Bush continued to proclaim the strength and health of the U.S. economy.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, whom he appointed, said recently, the American people are clearly better off as a result of strong economic growth and job creation. Well, for the wealthiest 1 percent, that tiny slice that President Bush has called his core supporters, things might be looking up. But for everybody else, we are having to work harder for less.

As someone said to me, not only have we had the race to the bottom, we are now bouncing off the bottom. So as Congress left Washington for an entire month, the economic anxiety felt palpably by the American people increased. The debt piled up more, now over $5 trillion. Interest rates are up as a throttle on economic growth.

Unemployment is up, surely, in America's heartland. According to the Census Bureau, working families fell even farther behind in the past year as they have every single year since this president took office. President Bush's own Census Bureau reports that the median income of working age households fell by another half of a percent last year.

According to the University of Michigan, consumer confidence hit a 9-month low in August, and authors of a confidence report say the gap between rich and poor in the United States is quite different than anything else observed in the prior half century. Truly America is in uncharted economic waters.

According to The New York Times, for the first time since World War II, though productivity is up by our people, real wages have failed to increase for most workers at a time when the overall economy was even growing. Even though President Bush and Secretary Paulson might claim the American people are better off, working people know better. They trust their real life experiences, not White House press releases.

The reality for America's families is that high gasoline prices, higher natural gas prices, rising health care costs, credit card debt increasing and borrowing against home equity have topped out. They are eating away at disposable income, and everywhere they turn, many middle class families are getting squeezed.

Job losses due to more outsourcing and foreign competition have left working families wondering, what does the future hold? Does work have a value in America anymore?

The median hourly wage for American workers has declined 2 percent since 2003 despite their increased productivity. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that real median income for households headed by someone under age 65 has declined 5.4 percent since President Bush took office. Is anybody here in Washington paying attention?

The net result, according to the New York Times, is that wages and salaries now make up the lowest share of the Nation's gross domestic product since the government began recording the data in 1947. But yet corporate profits represent the larger share of gross domestic profit since the 1960s.

There is a little imbalance there. The Times quoted a report from economists at Goldman Sachs. The most important contributor to higher profit margins over the past 5 years has been a decline in labor's share of national income.

Our mother used to ask the question for the super wealthy and the super rich, did they ever fill up? When is enough? How many homes? How many cars? How many chauffeurs? How many trips? How much do you really need? How much? So the bottom line on Labor Day 2006 is this: The strong economy that President Bush and his Secretary of the Treasury keep talking about has benefitted big business, but it has clearly bypassed the vast majority of the American people. It is time we change this Congress.

It is time we have people here in Washington who again represent the vast majority of the people of the United States who believe in hard work, who want to follow the rules, and they have a right to live a better way of life for investing themselves in the beliefs of this country and for putting their lives on the line for it. Mr. Speaker, America, this Congress, and, frankly, this President simply have to do much better.

GAS PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, right now in my district in rural North Carolina, folks are very concerned about the high cost of fuel. I rise tonight to call on this Congress to take action now to help the people who are suffering from this very serious crisis, not only in my district and State, but really in this country.

Gas prices are higher than they have ever been in the history of our country, and rural Americans are getting hit particularly hard. Our farmers are watching most of the profits from the crops that they harvest go back into their fuel tanks or their tractors and their equipment.

Our school districts in rural North Carolina are having trouble keeping the buses on the road. Rural Americans as a whole feel a greater pinch from these outrageous fuel prices. They have longer commutes just to get to the grocery store, to the doctor's office and to their church on Sunday.

Yet, while Americans are struggling to make ends meet, big oil companies are making record profits.

I support legislation to crack down on price gouging of gasoline and fuel. I also believe that it is our duty in this body to find alternatives to what has become a dangerous reliance on foreign oil.

As the co-chairman of the Democratic Rural Working Group, we have introduced H.R. 5372, the Biofuels Act of 2006. This is legislation that will help bring Americans a step closer to energy independence.

Today, we have the technology to solve our energy crisis. Other countries are already making significant progress and are far ahead of the United States in their energy independence. Countries such as Brazil already use over 80 percent ethanol and biodiesel, and they are 100 percent energy independent.

The Biofuels Act would increase production of vehicles that are E85 compatible and provide the tax credits to service station owners who update their equipment. We have the ability to turn soybeans and cellulose into biodiesel and ethanol. What we don't have is the infrastructure to maximize our ability to use these fuels.

Instead of the same old giveaways to big oil companies, the Republican leadership in this Congress should allow a vote on the legislation that we have introduced, H.R. 5372. Other countries have accomplished their energy independence. Americans can, too. Now is the time. The answer to our crisis of energy is growing in our fields.

NATIONAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, we have had a month here in August where we have gone back home and talked to folks back home and visited with them, and we are moving forward on issues that are vital to America. But nothing is more vital to the United States of America than its national security.

So I rise this evening to discuss with my colleagues and my neighbors the view that I am a little concerned about and want to talk about on the issue of national security. National security, the term itself, has a broad umbrella. It has an umbrella that we have a lot of historical experience to look at.

I am an old history buff. I like history. I study history. I think we learn lessons from history. I think when we forget history, we forget lessons we have learned, sometimes the hard way.

So, tonight, I want to talk a little bit about the national security of the United States today and compare that national security to a little bit of our history, and then also to discuss a little bit about what our response is, how we are now viewing our lives that we live in this country in light of national security. Now, national security means, are we secure as a Nation in the scope of our world, which means we have to think about our own common defense, promoting our own general welfare, the things that our founders talked about. That is part of it.

National security is securing our Nation's borders, and this debate has been ongoing now in this Congress for quite some time concerning our Nation's borders, and we may talk a little bit about that tonight.

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But I think that anyone who establishes a nation, and of course I believe with my whole heart our Founders, when they established our Nation, had in mind securing our lives in the United States of America by protecting the life, liberty, and property of Americans.

And they had in mind when those who would do us harm would put the life, liberty, or property of Americans at risk, that we would have the resources with which to protect those citizens and their holdings.

In our recent memory, and I was actually born 1 month, I am going to show my age here, 1 month before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, so I am a prewar human being by 1 month. Almost 1 month to a day. I want to look at that event and how our Nation responded to that event.

On December 7, 1941, the Imperial Navy of Japan attacked the United States of America basically from the air. They killed 2,402 Americans, 57 of them were civilians and 2,345 were Americans who were in the service. They attacked our military with their military all in uniform. It was a dastardly sneak attack. The American citizens were irate.

But what is kind of interesting, that particular day my dad tells the story, that was the first day under the way doctors looked at babies that people could visit the new baby. So on December 7, 1941, a group of friends came to my house to see me as a 1-month-old baby.

When this was announced on the radio, the first question they asked was, where is Pearl Harbor? When they found out American citizens were attacked, American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines were attacked, the American public was irate. The next day we went to war with Japan by declaration of this Congress. We followed that by going to war with Germany and Italy, supporters, allies of Japan, people who had the same agenda.

The American public went wholeheartedly into that war. They suffered things on the homefront. A whole lot of women had to take men's jobs on the assembly line so men could go to war. They rationed gasoline and food. They rationed sugar. They rationed lots of things. The American public saved scrap iron and they got involved in selling war bonds. They supported our soldiers as our soldiers went to war.

On the 11th day of September, 9/11 as we call it, 2001, a group of people attacked the United States of America again. These people didn't wear uniforms. These people didn't attack a military target. Well, sort of. Their last attack was on the Pentagon, but their initial attack was a civilian target, a symbol of international freedom and economy. The total number of United States citizens killed that day was 3,025, the vast majority of whom were civilians, not military soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines; and they were not attacked by someone's army. They were totally and completely sneak attacked on 9/11 to kill innocent American civilians who had done absolutely no imaginable harm to the people who attacked them.

You know, this Congress gathered on the steps of the Capitol in a very touching moment and sang ''God Bless America,'' Republicans and Democrats alike. For 48 hours this country was united, and we sit there and say that is when it all started. Actually, that is not when it all started.

Actually, if you want to go back a little bit, you can look at this same ideology, if you will, related groups of people attacked the embassy in Baghdad in 1983, attacked the Marines barracks in Lebanon in 1983 killing an additional 242 and 120 in those two attacks; hijacked a TWA airplane, the Pan Am 103 bombing; the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993; attempted assassination of President George H.W. Bush; the Khobar Towers bombing in 1996; the embassy bombing in east Africa in 1998; and the USS Cole bombing in 2000, followed by an attack on our country for a total of American citizens killed of 4,037. And we were really upset about it. But who sacrificed? Where are we in the support of enemies who would bring down our Nation? That is something I find very curious.

Tonight I heard some of my colleagues, my Democrat colleagues over here, saying the Iraqi war is wrong. They had nothing to do with 9/11.

Well, the first people we whipped in the Second World War were the Italians. They had nothing to do with Pearl Harbor. And the second group of people we whipped in the Second World War was the Germans. They had nothing to do with Pearl Harbor by their definition, but they lent allied support to the country that attacked this country. How can they argue when Saddam Hussein paid $25,000 to every terrorist family that attacked the United States of America? How can they say they were not aiding and abetting our enemies?

The President of the United States said something I thought was right. He said: Folks, you are either with us or you are against us. If you are helping our enemies, you are our enemies.

Now, sort of like the Monday morning quarterback at a football game, and I know about that, it is fun to sit in the stands and watch everybody second-guess your kid, all of a sudden we have people who knew all along, even though President Clinton thought they had weapons of mass destruction and said so publicly, those in his administration said the same thing, all indications were that they did, and the British intelligence, along with others around the world confirmed that they thought that they had the potential to get to the hands of terrorists weapons of mass destruction. But in addition, they aided and abetted through at least a $25,000 reward to aid the terrorists who attacked us, our enemies.

The Germans didn't do that and neither did the Italians, and yet we had to take care of those who would bring down our Nation. This Congress, the government in 1941, recognized the threat to the United States and knew that national security required us to