

through the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Or one may want to send an e-mail greeting through Operation Dear Abby, which I will make available through the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

To help servicemembers stay in contact with loved ones back home, donations to Operation Uplink at a CONGRESSIONAL RECORD address will help provide calling cards to the troops.

During these times of conflict, recognition of our men and women in uniform grows. It does not take too many hours of watching our troops in action on the television to know that they are demonstrating acts of heroism on a daily basis. As we Members of Congress have an obligation to let our men and women know that we appreciate and admire their contribution to our national security, visiting facilities in our districts and using the Internet are just two ways we can let our servicemembers and women know that we appreciate what they are doing for our country.

Let me say that I know some of my colleagues do not agree with how the United States came to be involved in this war. Some Members feel the United Nations weapons inspectors should have been given more time to look for weapons of mass destruction. Others believe we did not exhaust all of our diplomatic options. I think it is of paramount importance that we support the troops, the men and women in uniform who are literally putting their lives on the line for our country, the United States of America, regardless of whether one agrees with the war itself or not. And I hope my colleagues will take these words of advice to heart.

More than 65 servicemembers have died since the global war on terrorism began, and over 200 have been wounded or injured. These individuals and their families having sacrificed for our freedom, and our thoughts and our prayers are with them. The Nation will not forget the price these servicemembers have paid to defend our country and the freedoms and our interests. I hope that all Members will take advantage of the opportunities we have as Members of Congress to show our men and women in uniform that we care, that we really care.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge all of my colleagues and to urge all Americans to unite and support our troops now engaged in battle in Iraq. Our Commander in Chief, with the approval of Congress, called our Armed Forces into action to disarm a rogue regime that threatens our freedom and our security.

With our troops now in the line of fire, with more than four dozen Americans having made the ultimate sac-

rifice for freedom, the time for protest has passed. The time for unity has arrived.

Madam Speaker, we live in a free society. We all share the right to debate the best policies for our Nation; and in a free society each of us also have the right to assemble and to protest. These are sacred rights; but once our Nation, through our democratic process, has decided to commit troops and once those troops have been put into harm's way, the time for debate and protest is over.

Just as we share sacred rights, we also share sacred duties. Today with American troops in the field, we all share a duty to unite behind them and ensure that our actions do them no harm. But, Madam Speaker, even as recently as yesterday, Democrat Members of Congress were still denouncing Operation Iraqi Freedom. And Madam Speaker, if just one of these floor speeches by a Member of Congress, if just one acceptance speech by a Hollywood director, if just one street protest causes Saddam Hussein and his forces to continue the fight for 1 day longer, then those responsible would have done a terrible, terrible disservice to those serving so bravely in our name.

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Now, I would never question Americans' right to speak or protest. I only question the wisdom of doing so at this time. No matter what political beliefs we hold we are all Americans, and those soldiers in uniform fighting on the front lines are our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers. Those who undertake further protest at this point only fuel the resolve of our enemy, and they must take full responsibility for their actions.

Now, perhaps some need to be reminded why we are fighting and what we are fighting against.

Americans were sent to disarm an evil regime that has stockpiled weapons of mass destruction that threaten the peace and security of the Free World. Madam Speaker, 26,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin, 500 tons of sarin, mustard gas, and VX nerve agents; enough chemical and biological weapons to kill hundreds of thousands of Americans in a single act of terrorism.

I agree with our President. The risk of doing nothing is far greater than the risk of doing something.

Madam Speaker, Americans were also sent to Iraq to end a regime of terror, a regime that has used chemical weapons against their own people, a regime that has made rape and torture an instrument of public policy, and now a regime that uses innocent people as human shields and savagely executes prisoners of war.

Just ask a 68-year-old mother, Zahra Khafi, why we are in Iraq. As she was recently liberated by American forces, she let it be known that her 28-year-old son was summarily executed by

Saddam's regime for merely practicing her religion. She greeted our troops saying, "Peace be upon you, peace be upon you."

"Should I be afraid?" She asked, wiping back her tears. "Is Saddam coming back?"

Ask Ali Khemy, who said after the First Marine Expeditionary Unit liberated his village, "Americans very good. Iraq wants to be free."

Madam Speaker, President Ronald Reagan once said, "No weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women." Madam Speaker, the minions of tyranny and evil are learning that lesson today.

Now, our Nation has faced much greater challenges and has seen darker days. During the Civil War when brother fought brother, our great President, Abraham Lincoln solemnly stated, "I have often been driven to my knees with the overwhelming conviction I had nowhere else to go."

I believe now is a good time for all Americans to be driven to our knees, to pray for a speedy victory, to pray for our men and women in uniform, to pray for their families and pray for a peaceful world no longer threatened with weapons of mass destruction.

Madam Speaker, our cause is just, our victory is inevitable. Freedom will prevail. But we, all Americans, must unite behind our troops and unite today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NORWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.