

was needed, and it is needed more than ever because of the news coming from Operation Mountain Storm.

We need to thank the uniformed men and women of Combined Task Force 180 and the men and women of U.S. embassies in Islamabad and Kabul and other government agencies that are today risking their lives this very hour for the arrest of some of the world's most dangerous terrorists.

I also want to recognize our allies in this battle, the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan. President Musharraf of Pakistan is riding a tiger tonight, but he has made the bold step to move against al Qaeda, regardless of the political risk. He and his Special Forces team are key, key parts of this allied victory against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, we may or may not have good news tonight, but we can already thank the hundreds of Americans in uniform and out of uniform who are so far from home today, but are doing our government's most dangerous and important work.

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.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to accept the gentleman from California's (Mr. FILNER) time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO SPAIN

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, a week ago we all mourned the loss, along with our brothers and sisters and friends in Spain, of so many innocent civilians.

Having had the opportunity to live in Spain for 2 years, I would like to take a few moments, if I may, to express my personal condolences in the hopes that our Congress, in its entirety, will do so before long.

Como estadounidense y miembro del Congreso de los Estados Unidos de América, quiero expresar mis más profundas condolencias al pueblo de España por la trágica pérdida de tantos inocentes en manos del terrorismo. Personalmente, tuve la oportunidad de vivir en España durante dos años, y desde entonces llevo una parte de ese país y de su gente en mi corazón. Hoy mi alma llora las muertes provocadas por la crueldad del terror. Hoy, todos somos españoles.

Nuestras naciones han sido a lo largo de la historia, aliados y amigos, unidos por los

mismos valores y por una herencia común. Compartimos libertad, compasión, tolerancia y democracia. También es voluntad común mantenernos juntos y firmes contra aquellos que amenazan esos valores y matan inocentes en nombre del fanatismo político y religioso.

Cuando nuestro país sufrió los atentados del once de septiembre, el pueblo español y el resto del mundo ofreció a esta nación y a su gente, apoyo, comprensión y solidaridad. Ese ofrecimiento sin condiciones supuso más de lo que nunca podremos agradecer.

Ahora, somos nosotros y el resto del mundo los que debemos alargar nuestras manos hacia España y su gente. Permídnos que os abracemos como vosotros lo hicisteis. Permítidnos guardar el luto de vuestras víctimas. Queremos agradecer vuestra lealtad y mantener el compromiso de llevar a la justicia a los responsables de esta atrocidad.

Los terroristas nunca vencerán. Su brutalidad y sus objetivos son contrarios a la civilización, a la decencia y a las aspiraciones de los seres humanos.

Nunca vencerán, pero hasta que podamos con ellos de una vez por todas, tendrán que pagar un precio muy alto. No hay mayor evidencia de sus errores que este acto atroz de crueldad contra gente inocente que iba a su trabajo o a su centro de estudios. Por ello, debemos mantenernos unidos frente al terror, unidos con nuestros amigos y aliados, unidos con España.

Cuando viví allí y aprendí su bonita lengua con mis grandes amigos, me impresionó el hecho de que la frase "I'm sorry" significue realmente "lo siento". Permítanme decir a mis amigos españoles que "sentimos" su pérdida. Sabemos lo que es ese dolor, esa tristeza y la indignación e impotencia por unas muertes tan injustas. Hemos sentido en carne propia el drama del terror y lo volvemos a sentir con vosotros.

No hay palabras que puedan consolar tanto dolor, pero debéis saber que en este momento no estáis solos. Juntos, triunfaremos. Llevaremos a los responsables ante la justicia y más importante: les enseñaremos con el ejemplo de nuestros dos grandes países, que existe un camino mejor. Un camino que demuestre nuestra fuerza común y nuestro amor por la libertad.

Fuerza, amigos españoles . . . fuerza, coraje, y ánimo. Estamos con vosotros, hoy y siempre.

(English translation of the above statement is as follows:)

As an American citizen and member of the Congress of the United States of America, I want to express my profound condolences to all of the people of Spain for the tragic loss of so many innocents at the hands of terrorists. Having lived in Spain for 2 years, part of my heart and soul will always remain in Spain and part of Spain will always be within me. Today, my heart and soul are saddened by the losses and outraged by the inhumanity of the attackers. Today, we are all Spanish and we have all lost good people and friends.

Our nations have long been allies and friends, united by shared values and a common heritage. Liberty, compassion, tolerance, and democratic institutions are dear to all of us. So too is our willingness to stand together against those who would threaten those values and who kill innocents in the name of political and religious zealotry. Because of our shared values, we are now also united in suffering and loss.

When our Nation suffered on September 11th, the people of Spain and the rest of the world reached out to offer our own Nation and our people comfort, support and solidarity. That outpouring of kindness and sup-

port meant more than we could possibly express at the time.

Now, it is we and the rest of the world who reach out our hands to Spain and to all of the people of Spain. Let us embrace you now as you embraced us. Let us comfort you now as you comforted us. Let us grieve with you for your losses. And let us also pledge our loyalty to you and our commitment to bring those responsible for this atrocity to justice.

In the end, the terrorist will never win because their methods of brutality and their goals are contrary to civilization, contrary to decency, and contrary to the highest aspirations and realizations of human beings. They will never win, but until they are defeated once and for all, they will exact a heavy, heavy toll. Now, tragically, as so often before, they have taken that toll from innocents on their way to work and school. There could be no greater evidence of the fallacy of their aims and beliefs than this heinous act of cruelty. That is why we stand united against them, united with our friends and allies, united with the people of Spain.

When I lived in Spain and was taught this beautiful language by my dear friends, I was struck by the fact that the translation of the English phrase "I am sorry" is lo siento, literally, I feel it. Lo siento, I feel it. Let me say to my friends in Spain that we feel your losses. We know something of the feeling, we know the pain, we know the sadness, we know the rage at such pointless, unjust slaughter. We have felt these things ourselves and now we feel it once again with you and for you.

No words can take that pain away, but please know in this dark time that you are not alone. Together, we will prevail. We will bring those responsible to justice and, more importantly still, we will show through the examples of our two great lands and peoples that there is a better path, a better way. Let us never lose sight of that higher vision and let the ways we respond to these tragedies show our true strength and or love for freedom and for one another.

Courage my friends. Courage, strength, and compassion. We are with you and always will be.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman 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.)

ETHNIC CLASHES IN KOSOVO

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I must say a couple of things before I begin. I want to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) for his meticulous Spanish, and I want to also take note of the fact that the Manhattan College Jaspers, in my district, just won the opening round of the basketball NCAA against Florida. They were the underdogs. So I am very proud of them and the 17th District of New York. Go Jaspers.

I want to address a very serious subject, though, Mr. Speaker, and that is the violence which took place yesterday; ethnic clashes in Kosovo in the