

Mr. Speaker, we need to start putting our own people first once again and bring our troops home, the sooner the better. And when somebody says we can't cut and run, I surely hope they don't mean that we should stay there forever.

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

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

THE WAR IN IRAQ

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask to address the House out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I follow the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee. I thank him for his honesty, and I thank him for his eloquence. And I too, Mr. DUNCAN, wish that we could do this in a nonpartisan manner, and I would have hoped that we would have had every voice to have been able to be heard on this question. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue about the forces in Iraq, the freedom of this Nation, the right to defend our Nation, the right to tell the American people the truth that Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with the tragedy, the horrific, heinous act of 9/11.

If you looked at the 19 terrorists, you might think that we need to be engaged in war with Saudi Arabia. But we are not. That is why this debate had such insignificance because all of us believe in our troops. More importantly, we believe in the families and the wounded that have come home.

But I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, as someone who has just returned from Iraq, been to Iraq three times and Afghanistan; been to the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan where we truly believe Osama bin Laden hides. Do we remember that name? Someone that we allegedly have been in pursuit of for a number of years, a pursuit that has been stymied by the intrusion of the Iraq war. Rather than the global war on terror, we have misdirected and misconstrued the truth.

I am reminded of the somber presentation that Secretary Powell made before the United Nations; all the world was in awe, all the world's eyes were turned to America, America with the high moral compass. Yes, if America said it, it must be true. And now we can't get more than one or two countries to follow our lead. It cries out for a change in direction.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I hold up for the world to see and for America to see that these are the ones that we should be concerned about, those who have

lost their lives in battle, 2,500 and growing, and the 19,000 casualties that are facing America. Are these the soldiers that we are going to say are cutting and running because we want a new direction that makes sense?

Well, I believe in the Declaration of Independence when brave patriots said we all are created equal, with certain unalienable rights of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And our soldiers deserve the right to pursue happiness. And America deserves the right of the right investment of its tax dollars. The global war on terror is where we should be confronting the evilness of the Osama bin Ladens and the others who are mounting efforts around the world to fight against us.

The insurgency in Iraq, the foreign terrorists are a mere 10 percent or less. It is a civil war in Iraq between Sunnis and Shiia. And Mr. MURTHA is right: there is no mission. The mission is complete. Our soldiers are victorious. Saddam Hussein is gone. We are not broom sweepers. We don't go around cleaning up IEDs. That is what their mission is. That is not a mission of freedom.

And so Democrats today joined with more than one-third of this Congress to ask for a new direction. And I would venture to say that we would have more if there had not been the hard hand of the Republicans to scare their Members into not going against the tide.

The war in Iraq has increased the burden on taxpayers. We are paying \$300 million a day, a day, for this war. And yet we do not have monies for our enlisted personnel. Our soldiers' families are on food stamps, and veterans health care has been cut when soldiers are coming with catastrophic injuries, brain injuries that they have yet not diagnosed of how long they will be impacted by what we call closed-brain injuries.

We asked the administration to tell the truth. We asked them to recognize the young soldiers that were kind enough to sign this scarf. Yes, they are true and the brave, and this is not a question of challenging the soldiers' bravery and duty. This is a burden on the policymakers like Secretary McNamara, who indicated that he was wrong in the Vietnam War. But, oh, what a price we paid: 50,000 dead in Vietnam and broken hearts and broken families and yet someone 20-some years later was willing to admit they were wrong.

Well, I voted against this resolution and I voted because I never want it to be said that any war to which we send young soldiers into battle, the military into battle does not have the truth and the strength to withhold the understanding that America's freedom is at risk.

I close, Mr. Speaker, by saying when I went to Iraq and visited many bases, one sailor took this off of his chest. It is a badge of honor I wear.

We are not cutting and running. We are holding up the Constitution and

the Declaration of Independence. We want our soldiers to be able to pursue happiness, and we want a sovereign Iraq to protect its own nation.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, news from the front: the war on the border continues. More disturbing news, this time from the forgotten front.

We have just voted to finish successfully the war on the first front, Iraq and Afghanistan. Our second front is the fight against armed illegals, human smugglers, drug runners and possible terrorists not just wanting to penetrate our homeland border with Mexico and Canada, but the forgotten front, Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, here I have a map of the Caribbean islands. Puerto Rico is a part of the United States, the location: in the Caribbean islands next to the Dominican Republic, southeast of Cuba, east of Jamaica. It has earned a reputation among border patrol agents as America's biggest threat.

This is not a photo, the second one here, of Americans storming the beach at Iwo Jima or Normandy. Mr. Speaker, this is a photograph of 100 illegal immigrants with landing craft storming the American beaches in a yola, a homemade wooden boat. The boat is from the Caribbean islands. Its cargo, Dominicans, Middle Easterners and others from the islands. The Border Patrol says when people storm the American beaches here in Puerto Rico, they capture maybe one out of 10. And here we have a Blackhawk helicopter, at this particular time, having to view this firsthand.

One U.S. Border Patrol agent says he interviews the survivors of these ill fated trips, and they say they are coming to America for that free amnesty. Once they get to Puerto Rico, they can go anywhere in the United States with only a birth certificate or an easily forgeable photographic ID, if the one Border Patrol agent at the San Juan airport happens to ask for that identification.

We must remember that one of the 9/11 hijackers made his way into the United States through the Virgin Islands. Then he took flight lessons at San Juan, Puerto Rico. More than 2,600 illegals have been found entering the country just this way in Puerto Rico the past year. How many more weren't caught at all? And just where are they going and what are they taking with them?

Most of them, we must remember, are not from south of the border or north of the border; but they come from all over the world. Since we don't require passports to legally enter the United States from Mexico, Canada or the Caribbean islands, people can easily get to Puerto Rico pretending to be