

reach the number of 60, then technically this debate cannot move forward. I use the word "technically" because in honesty, that will not be the end if we do not muster 60 votes. This matter is going to come before the Senate again and again and again.

For 4 years in this war, Congress, controlled by the other party, has been virtually silent on the issue of this war and the wisdom of our policy. Those days are over. In the last few weeks we have been in session, we have had over 30 hearings by committees that have asked the hard questions about this policy, about protecting our troops, and about where we are going to go forward in the future. Those questions will continue to be asked by committees. They will continue to be addressed in the Senate. When we move to the next item of legislation, we will undoubtedly have amendments relative to this war in Iraq. This debate will not end.

I sincerely hope those on the other side of the aisle will join us. I hope they understand what is at stake. It is not just 21,000 more soldiers putting their lives on the line for America; it is a question of our foreign policy and protecting this Nation and making sure we keep our commitment to our country to keep it safe.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 30 minutes each and the time to be alternated between the two sides, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the war in Iraq is the most important issue of our time. The American people know that our soldiers are serving nobly under extraordinarily difficult circumstances and that far too many of them are making the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Citizens are calling on us—begging us—to address this issue with the seriousness and the urgency it deserves.

The House of Representatives will vote later today on a major resolution

supporting our troops and opposing the escalation of the war. It will be a historic vote and a clear response to the American people's clarion call for change. The Senate will have a chance to do so soon as well. The voices of the American people are growing louder and louder, and the need for us to act could not be clearer.

Under the President's current policy, the war continues to impose an enormous human toll on our soldiers, their families, and their loved ones. Our men and women in uniform have served with great courage and honor for nearly 4 years—longer than it took to win World War II. More than 3,000 of our forces have been killed and more than 23,000 wounded. The casualties keep mounting. Last fall was the deadliest period since the war began. Mr. President, 287 American soldiers were killed in October, November, and December. Already, 118 have been killed since the President announced the surge, and the numbers keep rising.

The toll in Massachusetts has been heavy. Just last week, CPT Jennifer Harris of Swampscott, MA, was killed when her helicopter went down north of Baghdad. She was the first woman from our State to make the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq, and our hearts and prayers go out to her family and loved ones.

So far, 65 Massachusetts members of our forces have given the last full measure of devotion to our country. The youngest was 19, the oldest was 46. They died far from their homes in Bedford and Bristol, Lawrence and Lowell, Plymouth and Pittsfield, Weymouth and Woburn, and other towns and cities across the State. They were fathers, sons, a daughter, brothers, and friends. Each of them represents a life cut short in service to our country.

More than 3,000 families across America share in such heartbreak. Their loved ones have died in Iraq, and we mourn their loss. We honor their service, and we pray that God's grace and mercy may ease the anguish of those they have left behind.

Citizens of Massachusetts have answered their country's call from the first days of the Republic, and those we honor today are members of that noble company. Each knew they were going into harm's way. They faced dangers in Iraq that vast numbers of our troops had never seen before, such as suicide bombers and improvised explosive devices.

We mourn the loss of these heroes. We honor their sacrifice and extend our deepest condolences to their families. Words cannot ease the grief of losing a loved one, but I hope the families may find comfort in the words of Abraham Lincoln in the famous letter he sent to a bereaved mother during the Civil War. He wrote:

Dear Madam, I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should at-

tempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and the lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

The consequences of the decisions we make here in Congress profoundly affect our military, their families, and the communities they have left. We have an obligation to our soldiers to make sensible decisions that will not place them needlessly in harm's way.

We in Massachusetts feel especially deeply the loss of the 65 soldiers who have died in Iraq: SGT Justin W. Garvey; PFC John D. Hart; SPC Christopher J. Holland; SGT Pierre A. Raymond; CPL Brian Oliveira; LCpl Travis Reid Desiato; LCpl Dimitrios Gavriel; SGT Andrew Farrar; 1LT Brian McPhillips; SSG Joseph P. Belavia; LCpl John J. Vangyzen IV; SGT Kurt D. Schamberg; CPT John W. Maloney; SPC Ray M. Fuhrmann II; 1SG Alan N. Grifford; PVT Michael E. Bouthot; SPC Daniel R. Gionet; SGT Gregory A. Belanger; PFC Kerry D. Scott; SGT Daniel J. Londono; CPL David Marques Vincente; LCpl Jeffrey Charles Burgess; LCpl Alexander Scott Arrendodo; 1LT Travis John Fuller; CPT Benjamin Sammis; CWO2 Stephen M. Wells; SPC Matthew Boule; CWO Kyran E. Kennedy; CPT Christopher J. Sullivan; LCpl Shayne Cabino; LTC Leon G. James, II; CPT Joel E. Cahill; LCpl Michael Ford; CPL Scott Procopio; LCpl Patrick Gallagher; CPL Donald E. Fisher II; SPC Gabriel T. Palacios; SGT Benjamin E. Mejia; SGT Glenn R. Allison; GySgt Elia Paietta Fontecchio; LCpl Andrew Zabierek; LCpl Nickolas David Schiavoni; SPC Daniel F. Cunningham; LCpl Gregory E. MacDonald; SPC Peter G. Enos; PFC Norman Darling; PVT Cory R. Depew; SSG Joseph Camara; SGT Charles Caldwell; PFC Markus J. Johnson; SPC David J. Babineau; CPL Paul N. King; LCpl Geoffrey R. Cayer; SGT Mark R. Vecchione; SSG Clint J. Storey; SPC Edgardo Zayas; LCpl Eric P. Valdepenas; SPC Jared J. Raymond; LCpl Edward Garvin; LT Joshua Booth; SPC Matthew J. Stanley; SGT Gregory Wright; SFC Keith Callahan; SGT Alexander H. Fuller; and CPT Jennifer Harris.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the chart I have printed in the RECORD. It is a chart of their hometowns and where they died in Iraq.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Name	Location of death	Relationship to MA
Sergeant Justin W. Garvey	Tel Afar, Iraq	Mother from Townsend.
Private First Class John D. Hart	Taza, Iraq	Lived in Bedford.
Specialist Christopher J. Holland	Baghdad, Iraq	Mother in Lunenburg.
Sergeant Pierre A. Raymond	Ar Ramadi, Iraq	Lived in Lawrence.
Corporal Brian Oliveira	Al Anbar, Iraq	Lived in Bristol.
Lance Corporal Travis Reid Desiato	Fallujah, Iraq	Lived in Bedford.
Lance Corporal Dimitrios Gavriel	Fallujah, Iraq	Parents in Haverhill.
Sergeant Andrew Farrar	Al Anbar Province, Iraq	Lived in Weymouth.
First Lieutenant Brian McPhillips	Baghdad, Iraq	Lived in Pembroke.
Staff Sergeant Joseph P. Belavia	Karbala, Iraq	Lived in Wakefield.
Lcpl John J. Vangyzen IV	Al Anbar Province, Iraq	Lived in Bristol.
Sergeant Kurt D. Schamberg	Iraq	Father in Melrose.
Captain John W. Maloney	Ar Ramadi, Iraq	Lived in Chicopee.
Specialist Ray M. Fuhrmann II	Samarra, Iraq	Lived in Attleboro.
First Sergeant Alan N. Grifford	Baghdad, Iraq	Parents in West Wareham.
Pvt. Michael E. Bouthot	Baghdad, Iraq	Lived in Fall River.
Specialist Daniel R. Gionet	Baghdad, Iraq	Father in Lowell.
Sgt. Gregory A. Belanger	Al Hallia, Iraq	Parents from MA.
Private First Class Kerry D. Scott	Iskandiriyah, Iraq	Mother in Worcester.
Sergeant Daniel J. Londono	Baghdad, Iraq	Parents in Dorchester.
Corporal David Marques Vicente	Hit, Iraq	Lived in Methuen.
Lance Corporal Jeffrey Charles Burgess	Al Fallujah, Iraq	Lived in Plymouth.
Lance Corporal Alexander Scott Arrendodo	Najaf, Iraq	Lived in Randolph.
First Lieutenant Travis John Fuller	Korean Village, Iraq	Lived in Granville.
Captain Benjamin Sammis	Central Iraq	Raised in Rehoboth.
Chief Warrant Officer Two Stephen M. Wells	Habbiniyah, Iraq	Parents in North Egremont.
Specialist Matthew Boule	Iraq	Raised in Dracut.
Chief Warrant Officer Kyran E. Kennedy	Tikrit, Iraq	Parents in Boston.
Captain Christopher J. Sullivan	Baghdad, Iraq	Lived in Princeton.
Lance Corporal Shayne Cabino	Al Karmah, Iraq	Lived in Canton.
Lt. Col. Leon G. James II	Ar Rustamiyah, Iraq	Mother in Longmeadow.
Capt. Joel E. Cahill	Dawr, Iraq	Lived in Norwood.
Lance Corporal Michael Ford	Al Anbar, Iraq	From New Bedford.
Cpl. Scott Procopio	Al Anbar, Iraq	Lived in Saugus.
Lance Cpl. Patrick Gallagher	Al Anbar, Iraq	Mother and father live in MA.
Corporal Donald E. Fisher II	Kirkuk, Iraq	Lived in Brockton.
Specialist Gabriel T. Palacios	Ba'qubah, Iraq	Father from Lynn.
Sergeant Benjamin E. Mejia	Marez, Iraq	Lived in Salem.
Sergeant Glenn R. Allison	Baghdad, Iraq	Mother in Pittsfield.
Gunnery Sergeant Elia Paietta Fontecchio	Al Anbar Province, Iraq	Lived in Milford.
Lance Corporal Andrew Zabierek	Al Anbar Province, Iraq	Lived in Chelmsford.
Lance Corporal Nickolas David Schiavoni	Al Karmah, Iraq	From Haverhill.
Specialist Daniel F. Cunningham	Iraq	Lived in Revere.
Lance Corporal Gregory E. MacDonald	Iraq	Parents from MA.
Specialist Peter G. Enos	Bayji, Iraq	Lived in Plymouth.
Pfc. Norman Darling	Iraq	Lived in Watertown.
Private Cory R. Depew	Mosul, Iraq	Father in Haverhill.
Staff Sergeant Joseph Camara	Baghdad, Iraq	Lived in New Bedford.
Sgt. Charles Caldwell	Iraq	Lived in Attleboro.
Pfc. Markus J. Johnson	Al Anbar Province, Iraq	Lived in Springfield.
Spc. David J. Babineau	Baghdad, Iraq	Parents in Springfield.
Cpl. Paul N. King	Al Anbar Province, Iraq	Tyngsboro, Mass.
LC. Geoffrey R. Cayer	Habbiniyah, Iraq	Fitchburg, MA.
Sgt. Mark R. Vecchione	Ar Ramadi, Iraq	Eastham, MA.
Staff Sergeant Clint J. Storey	Ar Ramadi, Iraq	Wife/daughter in Palmer, MA.
Spc. Edgardo Zayas	Baghdad, Iraq	Parents in Dorchester, MA.
Lance Corporal Eric P. Valdepenas	Al Anbar Province, Iraq	Seekonk, MA.
Specialist Jared J. Raymond	Taji, Iraq	Swampscott, MA (mother).
LCPL Edward Garvin	Al Anbar Province, Iraq	Malden, MA.
Lt. Joshua Booth	Fallujah, Iraq	Fiskdale, MA.
Specialist Matthew J. Stanley	Taji, Iraq	Father and Wife in MA.
Sgt. Gregory Wright	Muadadivah, Iraq	Father in Boston, MA.
Sgt. 1st Class Keith Callahan	South of Baghdad	Mother in Woburn.
Sgt. Alexander H. Fuller	Baghdad, Iraq	Wife in Centerville.
Captain Jennifer Harris	Al Anbar Province, Iraq	Lived in Swampscott, MA.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wisconsin.

IRAQ

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, first let me thank the Senator from Massachusetts for his moving and sobering words but even more importantly for his leadership and tremendous clarity on this issue over these last few critical years.

Mr. President, we are approaching the 4-year anniversary of one of the greatest foreign policy mistakes in our country's history. In March 2003, with the prior authorization of Congress, the President took this country to war in Iraq. Almost 4 years later, virtually every objective observer and, more importantly, the American people as a whole agree that the President's policy has failed. Even the President acknowledges that his plan has not worked, though his solution is not a new plan but a troop escalation. Of course, sending more troops to implement what is essentially the same flawed strategy makes no sense. The American people agree that it makes no sense, and most

of my colleagues agree that it makes no sense.

So the question becomes, with a President unable or unwilling to fix a flawed policy that is jeopardizing our national security and our military readiness, what should we in Congress do about our country's involvement in this disastrous war? Do we do nothing and hope the President will put things right, when he has shown time and time again that he is incapable of doing so? Do we simply tell the President that we are unhappy with the way the war is going and that we hope he will change course or do we take strong, decisive action to fix the President's mistaken, self-defeating policies?

It is pretty clear which course of action I support. I think it is a course of action the American people called for in the November elections. It is the course of action our national security needs, so we do not continue to neglect global threats and challenges while we focus so much of our resources and our efforts on Iraq. It is the course of action that will support—that will actu-

ally support—our brave troops and their families.

We must end our involvement in this tragic and misguided war. The President will not do so; therefore, Congress must act. So far, Congress has not lived up to that responsibility. Instead of taking strong action in the Senate, instead of considering binding legislation that fixes the President's flawed Iraq strategy, we tied ourselves into knots last week in a convoluted and misguided effort to achieve a consensus that would have essentially reaffirmed congressional authorization for continuing our military involvement in Iraq. Of course, here I am referring to the resolution proposed by the senior Senator from Virginia. This resolution was portrayed, at least at first, by members of both parties as an important symbolic rebuke of the President's Iraq policy. In fact, it really was not a rebuke at all. In parts, it reads like a reauthorization of the war, rejecting troop redeployment and specifically authorizing "vigorous operations" in a critical region in Iraq.

Now, when debate on the Warner resolution was blocked, we had a chance