

political stalemate, new explosions of violence coming as I stand here speaking on the floor of the House of Representatives.

And while we continue to be bogged down in a civil war in Iraq, a conflict that began centuries before 9/11, the real enemy, al Qaeda, grows stronger in its cozy, safe haven in Pakistan.

The administration is often criticized for not having an exit strategy in Iraq. But in my view, the reason the President never had an exit strategy is because he never intended to exit Iraq. Permanent occupation has always been his game plan.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's up to the Congress to implement the will of the American people and end the occupation with a responsible redeployment of our troops. The best way to honor those who have died or have been injured in this occupation is to ensure that more won't die and more won't be injured.

That is why I will continue to speak up for our brave troops and for the innocent Iraqis who are, despite what the Vice President may think, the ones who are carrying the biggest burden.

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

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

SUNSET MEMORIAL

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand, once again, before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial. It is March 31, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave. And before the sun sets today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless, unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11 times 15,000, the total number that were lost on September 11.

It has now been exactly 12,852 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, died and cried and screamed as they died. But because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords rather than air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be the same. And all of the

gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are lost forever.

Yet, even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date: those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's important for those in this chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and they are endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Every conflict our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are. And yet, Mr. Speaker, another day has passed. And we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath, and we failed our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with the nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection that we should have given them. And it seems so sad, Mr. Speaker, to me that this Sunset Memorial may be the only remembrance that these children who died today will ever have in this Chamber.

And so just as small a gesture as it might be, I would ask those who are inclined for just a moment of silence at this time for these little, lost Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who hears this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express and that 12,852 days spent killing nearly 15 million children in America is enough and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon, each of us will walk through these chambers for the very last time. And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to con-

vene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day when we finally find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, it is March 31, 2008, 12,852 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children. This, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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

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

ECONOMIC PLIGHT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the American people are desperately struggling to understand why our Federal Government is ignoring their economic plight. The average price of gasoline now sits at \$3.28 and it is rising. Only a month ago, Americans paid \$3.16. A year ago, they paid \$2.67. Months away from the peak of the summer driving season, the American people can expect to see this trend get only worse.

In 1996, the United States began its plunge into nearly total dependence on imported petroleum. With 10 years of oil deficits continuing to plague our economy, we have spent too much time talking and not enough time acting. Our lack of energy independence translates into a true loss of liberty.

Since the Bush administration assumed office, our Nation is importing a billion more barrels of petroleum a year. A billion barrels more. By 2007, the trade deficit of oil imports had risen to \$293 billion, accounting for a third, over a third, of the total \$815 billion U.S. trade deficit.

This last statistic is truly sobering. But for this year of 2008, 51 percent of the total U.S. trade deficit, over half, is now the result of imported oil. Over half of our structural trade deficit flows directly from the increasing cost of oil.

Again, this equals dependence for America, not independence. It is an abrogation of our birthright as a Nation to allow us to continue in this position.

Based on 2007 numbers, the United States is adding \$808 million a day to the trade deficit just from our imbalance in oil. The rising cost of oil added an estimated \$50 billion to the Nation's trade deficit in 2006 and, on top of that, another \$28 billion in 2007.