

not do in Vietnam, which was to recognize the valiant and outstanding service of our men and women, and to understand victory had been achieved. Today we have two Vietnams side by side, North and South, exchanging and working. We may not agree with all that North Vietnam is doing, but they are living in peace. I would look for a better human rights record for North Vietnam, but they are living side by side because that was a civil war.

And because the leadership of this Nation did not listen to the mothers and fathers who bore the burden of 58,000 dead and did not declare victory, the mounting deaths, the violence continued going up and up. Rather than understanding the political nature of the war in Vietnam, we did not listen to those families. So we mourned. But I say today they were valiant heroes, proud of them, although fallen, and proud of those who lived.

As I look back on Afghanistan and the past week, I will say to you that it is time not out of defeat, but it is time in victory to return home. Our soldiers can come home in victory, for not one more treasure should be cast in this war that is a civil war. Al Qaeda is not present in Afghanistan. And we have the opportunity to cast over to the Afghan civilian government, which is now working to build up the Afghanistan National Security Forces, which we expect to be some 300,000 strong over the next couple of months, national police, and national army, trained by the brilliance of our young men and women.

We understand the military says the job is yet not done, conditions on the ground. Conditions are movable. They are always changing. What you have to look at is whether you have a government that has the resolve to lead itself. President Karzai must stand against corruption, he must fight to eradicate the poppy crop, he must stop the bribery so that farmers can get their products to market. That is a civilian challenge. That is a challenge of the Afghan people. He must get electricity with the money that has been given to him down in the south.

But to go into the NATO hospital, or to go into a hospital in Germany, to see the brutality of the IED injuries, to see the lost limbs—we have claimed victory. We have provided an opportunity for President Karzai to lead.

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And so I'm a proud American; again, not standing here in arrogance, but for the sacrifice of the reservists and others who have come and the full-time military willing to stay as long as the civilian leadership of this country demands that they stay.

And so I say to the moms and dads and families who've sacrificed their loved ones both in terms of those who now serve us and those who have fallen

in battle, we cannot thank you enough. And none of us can mourn as you're mourning if you have lost a loved one. But we can say "thank you" by bringing our troops home with a hero's welcome, something we have not done probably since World War II.

It is time to bring our troops home, to declare victory, and to thank them for being heroes, not only of America but for this world, in the name of peace and freedom.

#### ARIZONA CRIME

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

Mr. POLIS. It should be common sense that with the limited dollars we have in law enforcement, diverting those law enforcement resources to hunt down immigrants detracts from our efforts to combat violent crime. However, believe it or not, some supporters of Arizona's new immigration law actually claim that it's a crime-fighting measure.

That overlooks a basic point: Crime rates have already been falling in Arizona for years despite, or perhaps in part because of, the presence of immigrants. This was once again proven by a recent study conducted by America's Voice, which documented the change in violent crime levels in various Arizona police jurisdictions from 2002 through 2009.

As you can see, crime is down in Arizona, the purple line. In fact, the only jurisdiction in the study where crime increased was in the part of Maricopa County under the jurisdiction of the incompetent sheriff Joe Arpaio, who's famously used anti-immigrant policies to advance his political agenda at the expense of keeping his communities safe.

From 2002 to 2009, the crime rate in Maricopa County increased 58 percent while the State as a whole averaged a 12 percent decrease. Compare that 58 percent crime increase to other localities of Arizona that did not use the immigrant-bashing approach. In that same time period, Phoenix enjoyed a 14 percent decrease in crime; Tempe, a 26 percent decrease; and Mesa, a 31 percent decrease—communities dealing with the same types of immigration issues as Maricopa County and yet communities that, during the same period of Sheriff Arpaio's tenure, decreased their crime rate.

Why? In recent years, local law enforcement communities have increased, successfully, community policing efforts, which includes establishing relationships with immigrant communities to fight crime. These efforts are part of the reason why crime is dropping in Arizona. And Senate Bill 1070 threatens to undo that process. That's the reason the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police, the Yuma

County Sheriff, Mesa Police Chief, and many other law enforcement officials nationally are opposed to the new Arizona law, Senate Bill 1070, which will stretch local police forces and hinder law enforcement's ability to obtain critical information on criminals.

Anti-immigrant laws like Senate Bill 1070 will lead to a crime wave across Arizona and across the Nation, and we see the evidence right here in Sheriff Arpaio's own district.

In my home district of Colorado, the chief of police of Boulder County, Chief Pelle, has been an outspoken leader on this front. He's criticized the Arizona law because it threatens successful community policing efforts that have been implemented in my district and across the Nation.

Misguided laws like Senate Bill 1070 will increase crime. Only comprehensive immigration reform can address this issue, and only Congress has the power to pass it. We need to pass tough, fair, and practical reform that will secure our borders, crack down on employers who hire immigrants illegally, require all immigrants here illegally to register with the government, pass a security check, pay taxes, and learn English.

I call on Congress to fix our broken immigration system now. No one from either side of the aisle thinks that the status quo is working for our country. It's time to stop playing politics with an issue that should have been addressed long ago. We must pass comprehensive immigration reform immediately.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4173) "An Act to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end 'too big to fail', to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes."

#### OIL DRILLING NEEDED IN GULF OF MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, the spill in the gulf coast has produced an environmental tragedy, and obviously losing the lives of 11 American workers has been devastating for