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Senate

HONORING MAJOR JEFFREY TOCZYLOWSKI

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, we are today at war--in Iraq, Afghanistan, and so many other places in the world, with an enemy who knows no borders. The recent bombings in Amman, Jordan during a wedding celebration are a strong reminder that terrorists know no limits to their ambitions and the means by which they would achieve those ambitions, however violent and horrific.

Our dedicated American service men and women have answered a noble calling to defeat terrorism, taking the fight to the terrorists abroad, so that we do not have to fight them here at home. The central battleground in the war on terror is Iraq. It has been just 3 years since Iraq was liberated from the brutal regime of an evil dictator, and in that time, we have made tremendous progress. A constitutional democracy is taking hold, and the Middle East is moving towards greater stability. It is integral to the continued progress in this region and to the overall war on terror that we not allow the cowardly acts of insurgents to derail our efforts. America must stand firm with the Iraqis and see that this danger is defeated and freedom prevails.

No one ever said this would be easy, and mistakes have certainly been made. This is a war--and it is painful and horrific. Every life lost is one tragic loss too many. But we must ensure that their sacrifice was not in vain.

We must honor our fallen heroes, heroes like Major Jeffrey Toczylofski, by completing the job they set out to do. Major Toczylofski, seen here, was a Special Forces detachment

commander assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group. Two weeks ago in Anbar province, he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. In his last email home to his family and friends, he wrote how they should respond if he were to lose his life in battle: And I quote: Don't ever think that you are defending me by slamming the global war on terrorism or the U.S. goals in that war. As far as I am concerned, we can send guys like me to go after them, or we can wait for them, to come back to us again. I died, doing something I believed in and have no regrets, except that I couldn't do more.

What a powerful testament to the commitment of our service members fighting the war on terror.

Freedom and democracy in Iraq are the terrorists' worst nightmare. They know what is at stake and try desperately to derail our success. In a letter intercepted last month from Bin Laden's deputy Zawahiri to al-Qaida's leader in Iraq--the terror network's plan was exposed: to expel the Americans from Iraq, establish radical Islamist authority in the country, and extend the terrorists' jihad into neighboring countries and around the world. They seek to destroy our very way of life. We cannot cut and run--we know all too well what is at stake in this global war against terror. To our men and women in uniform who are protecting our freedom and our security, I say thank you and God bless you. You make us so very proud.

I yield the floor.