

and the entire pastoral staff, the Reverends Teresa Chamberlain, Kristen Jeide, Dr. James Newby and S. Linda Purdy.

We are also very thankful to all of the clergy who have served Wayzata Community Church during the past 125 years, as well as the other church staff, lay leaders, teachers, musicians, choir members, volunteers and other friends and members of Wayzata Community Church.

Mr. Speaker, on this special anniversary of Wayzata Community Church, let us pay tribute to 125 years of ministry and mission and pray that this wonderful community of faith will provide many more years of spiritual growth, support and service to the people of the Lake Minnetonka community.

□ 1600

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### RESTORING DEMOCRACY TO AMERICA

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, you can always tell when the Republicans fear an upcoming election because they start apologizing for their past transgressions.

So it should come as no surprise that the President finally acknowledged the presence and use of secret CIA prisons. The American people happen to think that the U.S. Constitution is a document that was never intended to be shredded and discarded like last week's newspaper, but that is exactly what is happening by the President and his rubber-stamp Republican Congress.

We do not have to subvert the freedoms and principles that make us Americans so that the President can fumble his way through finding and fighting terrorists like bin Laden.

We still believe in the rule of law, the first amendment, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. We believe in the Geneva Convention, and the President undermines the American credibility, power and leadership around the world by dismissing a document so important that it is incorporated into the manuals of the U.S. Armed Forces.

America is not a democracy at your convenience, Mr. President. Without the protections provided by the first amendment, the American people might never have known about the abuses at Abu Ghraib; and without the

first amendment, the American people would have never known about the unauthorized wiretaps of the American people, even when there is a secret court specifically set up to enable America to defend itself without destroying the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in the process.

The American people still believe in the rule of law, and they can see that the President suspended the Constitution, the Geneva Convention, and the Bill of Rights because he finds them inconvenient.

The policies of this administration and the Republican Congress have not made America safer, but America is in danger on a whole new front, Presidential indifference to the principles and ideals that we are fighting for.

The President was given the tools and the resources after 9/11, but he pulled out before the job was done. He diverted our soldiers and resolve from Afghanistan to Iraq. It was a bad decision then, and it has become disastrous now in both places.

But with an automatic rubber-stamp Congress in the House and the Senate, the President could tell them what to think, tell them how to vote and get whatever he wanted. There was no balance in our government to ask the tough questions and hold the President accountable. There still is no balance in our government that can protect the American people and our founding policies from the brute force of the Republican power machine.

The President finally admitted he authorized secret CIA prisons, and in the next breath, demands the Congress authorize him to keep doing whatever he wants. And if the Republicans remain in power, they will do exactly what the President wants. No debate, no balance, nothing short of outright misrepresentation of the American people.

The Republicans misrepresent the American people when they rubber-stamp everything the President wants. That is not how America works, and it is not how democracy works. America is all about balance, debating different points of view, coming together as one Nation, standing on common ground. But that fundamental approach requires accountability, and there has been none under the Republicans.

For goodness sake, the Republicans could not even swear in Big Oil CEOs when they were called to Capitol Hill over skyrocketing prices. Republicans could not require these people to swear to tell the truth. Maybe they did; maybe they did not. We will never know.

And that is what the midterm election is really all about. America is tilted not merely to the right, but off the map entirely. Neocons who no one elected are telling the President and the Vice President what they are expected to do and what the Republican Congress will pass.

The American people may not understand the rules of Congress; but know this, Republicans delay every vote on

the floor of this House until they can twist enough arms to get what the neocons behind the curtain want. Debate is gone. Accountability is gone. And that is why the Republican control should be gone.

The Republicans have squandered their chance to govern. Republicans have shortchanged the American people for 12 long years. With free speech and free press, now the American people know it.

November is about restoring democracy to the Nation best able to protect it. November is about restoring balance to a Republican Congress that has forgotten that it works for the people, not for the neocons. No democracy can survive without a Congress that looks at the President's policies and asks questions and sometimes says no.

This President has had a free hand for far too long, and this election is a referendum on President Bush. If you want more, vote for a Republican. If you want to change it, vote for the Democrats.

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

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

#### THANK GOD FOR THIS DEMOCRACY AND THOSE PROTECTING IT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we hear people across the aisle talk about, gee, a rubber-stamp Congress. Well, I can point to you, that is the reason there is no immigration or border bill right now is because this is not a rubber-stamp Congress. The President wants some things that we simply cannot provide.

But when we talk about the allegations about Republicans or the President shredding the Constitution, let me tell you, he does not shred the Constitution. He has sworn to protect it, and I am proud that people who want to destroy the way of life that we have in this country, people that believe that freedom and democracy and self-government is a terrible thing, they think that that leads to debauchery and degradation, and therefore, you need some holy ayatollah that tells you everything you can or cannot do, that sends women back to being chattels as they never should have been but still are in some areas of the world, that is what they want to do to this country. They want to destroy people. They want to kill us, and we have a President that understands that.

Now, across the aisle we have some folks who want to be part of the blame America first crowd. They want you to know, gee, we are so bad, we are so terrible, look at Abu Ghraib. I asked my good friend SAM JOHNSON that serves here in the Congress what he thought about if he had been given a choice between the absolute horror that he went through in the North Vietnam prison compared to what happened at Abu Ghraib. It was a no-brainer.

What happened there was abuse. The people have gone to prison. They have been punished. What happened to American prisoners in North Vietnam, North Korea, what happened to American prisoners among those killers, those just blood-sucking, killing democracy, wanting to destroy people, terrorists, jihadists, cutting our people's heads off with dull instruments on camera, and that is who you want to embrace? There are even some people here in Washington that before Saddam went down, he flew over there. Never mind that Saddam was a murdering, blood-sucking thief who killed thousands and thousands. We go over and embrace Saddam and then come back and call our President the one in the wrong? My goodness, the blame America first crowd.

Those who want to blame Bush and Rumsfeld for the terrorist acts have missed the whole point. Since 1979 there has been a war going on. We just did not know it. We had a President then who allowed an act of war under international law, the attack of our embassy in Iran, to go unpunished, and for over a year, all we did was beg them to please release our hostages. It sent a bad message.

We were hit again in 1983 with the barracks. We were hit all through the 1990s with acts of war, including the first attack on our own continent at the World Trade Center in 1993. What did the Democratic administration and Democratic Congress do? Well, they wanted to prosecute them in civil court here in America instead of treating it as an act of war.

This President understands we are in war. Now we have a Supreme Court that has expressed concerns about Guantanamo. I went to Guantanamo, and having been a judge and chief justice, I have toured a lot of prisons. That was the nicest prison I have ever visited where the prisoners are being kept. But you know what we noticed? We were told do not let the prisoners hear you because they will think you are with the Red Cross or somebody. One of the people with us, and they heard somebody there and they started all of sudden going from laughing and being giddy and funny between themselves to, oh, please help me, I am being tortured and all this baloney. Well, they are playing to the crowds. That was obvious.

I would submit if the Supreme Court is all that concerned, we need to put that hurricane fence back around the Supreme Court building that was there

during construction recently and move those people from Abu Ghraib so they can watch them directly and they can look out their windows, maybe let them use their restroom facilities so they can supervise more closely what this administration is trying to protect us from.

You cannot blame President Bush and Rumsfeld for the current terrorist attacks unless you are squarely willing to put the blame for 9/11 on the Clinton administration because that is when it was planned, that was when it was prepared and almost completed, and then it carried over and was finished during this administration. This President saw it for what it was, an act of war that had to be addressed.

The price for liberty, as our forefathers said, is eternal vigilance. We cannot keep blaming America first, as our friends across the aisle want to do. We have to recognize, as this President and this Secretary of Defense has, we are in a war against us, and we finally have an administration that recognizes that and is out to protect us and protect the Constitution. Thank God for this democracy and those protecting it.

□ 1615

#### IRAQ POLICY

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor to visit a group of folks gathered on the Mall as part of Camp Democracy, a nonpartisan camp for peace, for democracy and for the restoration of rule of law.

Those who gathered are relentlessly working to promote peace and justice. They bring great passion to our shared struggle. They have led one of the most important and powerful grassroots movements in recent memory, and because of the pressure they have applied and the eloquence with which they have made the case, the immorality of the Bush Iraq policy has been exposed.

Mr. Speaker, in a few months, our troops will have been in Iraq for as long as their grandfathers fought in World War II. But unlike the struggle against Nazism, this has been an unmitigated disaster, a national tragedy and a moral outrage. More than 2,650 soldiers of our own are dead, nearly 20,000 wounded by the Pentagon's own count and countless more psychologically traumatized. And for what? So we could make the world a more dangerous place and increase the terrorist threat? So we could create more jihadists and inspire more hatred for Americans among Muslim extremists? So we could foment a bloody civil war and rip a nation apart at its seams, killing tens of thousands of innocent civilians for the cause of their so-called liberation?

Like the people at Camp Democracy, I have been speaking out against this war and this occupation even before they began. I have held forums, forced votes on resolutions and joined demonstrators at rallies across the country. Most recently, I introduced a bill that would rescind the President's authority to use force in Iraq, authority that was granted in 2002 under what we now know are false pretenses. I will not give up this fight until every last American soldier has been returned home to his or her family.

But even after that, we will have plenty of work to do, because Iraq is only a part of the problem. The real problem is a foreign policy that uses too much brawn and not enough brains. The real problem is an approach to national security that says might is always right; that says, when it doubt, shoot first and ask questions later. What we need is to completely overhaul the way we handle global conflict and prevent wars from starting in the very first place.

Working with the Friends Committee, working with WAND and working with Physicians for Social Responsibility, I created the SMART Security plan, which was introduced in the House in 2005. SMART would do just what I was talking about. SMART stands for Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. It emphasizes peacekeeping and diplomacy instead of invasion and occupancy. It rejects war in all but the most extreme circumstances. It fights terrorism with stronger global partnerships and with sound diplomacy, with better intelligence, with tough weapons inspections but without violating our civil liberties and fundamental freedoms.

SMART would put more resources into securing loose nuclear material and ensuring the United States lives up to the commitments we have made in our Nation on nuclear nonproliferation. SMART would wean us off Middle Eastern oil. It would invest in renewable energy technologies instead of Cold War weapon systems that have outlived their usefulness. SMART would dramatically increase development aid and debt relief for the poorest countries in the world to combat the deprivation and despair that often gives rise to terrorism in the first place. It protects not by wreaking violent havoc around the world but by staying faithful to the most honorable American values.

Armed conflict around the world is destroying our bodies and our souls. I am particularly troubled by the devastating impact this war is having on our children. Our children are the war's most tragic victims. Children represent a disproportionate number of civilian deaths in conflicts worldwide. And for many who survive, their education is disrupted, their communities destroyed and their families separated.