

WASHINGTON - Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE) tonight reacted to President George W. Bush's address to the Nation on Iraq, imploring national leaders to avoid unnecessary political posturing and to focus only on our national security and unity. Rep. Terry wants America's national security decisions to be made for the right reasons and not for political reasons.

"It was refreshing to hear President Bush reach out to the Democratic leadership to find common ground on Iraq and the greater War on Terror. It is only responsible for all national leaders--whether Democrat, Republican or Independent--to encourage dialogue and debate on the War on Terror. As Iraq struggles with its march to freedom and democracy, our political leaders need to reach, to the extent possible, a shared policy in Iraq and the Middle East. Unfortunately, as the presidential primaries approach, there is less of an opportunity for that to happen.

"There is no doubt that America faces enormous challenges in Iraq. All Members of Congress, including myself, want our troops to return home as soon as possible. But we absolutely must bring the troops home for the right reason--that our national security will be strengthened by it. Political consideration should not enter into the equation for even one second."

"Additionally, all Americans must unite behind our brave men and women serving in Iraq. This is not the time to politicize our troops or their military leaders. If there ever was a time for civil, straightforward, honest, and open debate based on the facts, now is the time."

