

WASHINGTON - Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) tonight commented on President George W. Bush's address to the Nation. The President addressed the Airborne and Special Operations Forces at Ft. Bragg to mark the one year anniversary of the transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqi people.

"It was absolutely necessary that the President addressed our Nation regarding the ongoing efforts in Iraq," said Terry. "The President stated rhetorically, 'Is the sacrifice worth it?' I, along with millions of Americans, believe it is. I appreciate the details outlined tonight, which show that the Iraqi police and standing army are both growing and strengthening. Our exit strategy has always been to empower the Iraqi people to defend their own country and people from terrorists. We are making great progress in this regard."

Terry added, "Tonight's remarks showed that the debate should not be of the shortcomings of the past, but the progress we carry forward into the future. It is time to shift the focus from defining an unrealistic timetable to measuring benchmarks of sovereign Iraqi advancement."

