



NEWS RELEASE

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Rep. John Lewis on Anniversary of Iraq War

“Today we celebrate a grim anniversary. This marks the beginning of our sixth year of conflict in Iraq. America’s sons and daughters—the men and women of the military--have done everything we have asked of them. They have faced situations that have tested them to the very core of their beings. They have done their part, and now we must do ours. We must find the best possible way and the most expeditious way to bring them home. I believe the people of Iraq and the government of Iraq want to manage their own affairs. We need to step aside, and let them step up to the plate.

“We must turn our attention now to our veterans. Over 4,000 Americans have been killed, and tens of thousands have been injured. Instead of spending billions of dollars on an unending war, we need to focus on healing—healing the wounds of Americans who have been deeply scarred by this conflict, healing the turmoil our mistakes in Iraq have visited on the Iraqi people, and building the bridges of diplomacy that will bring a permanent end to this unnecessary conflict. We have a responsibility to lay down the tools and instruments of war and begin the long-range work of peace and reconciliation that will restore stability to the region.”

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