



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Senate District 21

Capitol Building, Room 332
Jefferson City, MO 65101

For the Week of:
Sept. 11, 2006

Contact: Aaron Baker
(573) 751-1507

Remembering the Lessons from 9/11

I am grateful every morning when I turn on the radio or TV and I do not hear or see what I saw on that infamous day five years ago. The attacks of September 11 affected each one of us, and in the weeks following, you could not walk down the street without seeing the colors of our great nation. People forgot about the differences they had between their neighbors and our nation's leaders. On Sept. 11, 2001, we were all the same. We were all Americans, and we were all being attacked.

We must not forget. More people lost their lives on 9/11 than at Pearl Harbor. September 11 altered the course of American history. Never before have our borders been under such an intense threat from evil infiltrators. During the World Wars, and even in the Cold War, we had the advantage of knowing our enemy. We could point them out on a map. But we are no longer in the midst of a conventional war. Today our enemies work together thousands of miles away from each other. There is no centralized political structure dictating their movements. They are positioned in all corners of the globe, working under the radar, and that is why our security forces must remain vigilant and active.

I had the honor this past week to welcome home some of our National Guard Soldiers from Iraq. This was an emotional homecoming as we stood between the soldiers and their families. General Sidwell told them that during the Revolutionary War, a third of the country supported the war, a third of the country was with Great Britain, and a third of the country didn't really care. It sounds very close to where we are today.

Whether or not you believe in this war, we must always remember our freedom does not come free. The majority of Americans have had family or friends fight in one of America's wars. For past and future generations, our families have and will continue to deal with the same prejudices of race, class and religion that threaten to creep back into place after five years of being one Nation.

I am not asking you to support this war in Iraq. I am asking for you to support our troops who serve without hesitation because it is their job. If you are protesting this war, I ask you to stop for a moment and thank a soldier, police officer, emergency personnel, or government leader for having the ability to protest without repercussions. And pray that one day we will find Osama Bin Laden and our soldiers will come home. I am asking you to always remember the lessons from 9/11.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

-END-