

Statement of Congressman Tim Ryan on the 6th Anniversary of the Iraq War

March 19, 2009

“On this, the 6th anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq war, we try to make sense of the lives lost supporting a political goal rather than confronting a real threat to our way of life. As the war winds down, history has yet to record the course we will take. I believe in change and that an unjust war must not lead to an unjust peace.

“The greatest tragedy of the Vietnam Era is that our nation never healed, and our wounds were reopened on that fateful day in 2003 when we chose to turn our backs on the lessons of the past and embark on a misguided venture in Iraq. Once we end this war, we can begin the work of reclaiming our country—getting back to the day when liberty and justice for all wasn’t used as a talking point in a political speech and the casualties of war aren’t just statistics or collateral damage.

“It is time to reexamine our views of peace. Our post –Iraq political and economic approach must be different. The way we interact with the world must change after Iraq. Our cynical and destructive political approaches must change. We can not continue with an economic system that preys on poor countries and uses workers, here and abroad, as pawns in some global economic chess match. We can not use and abuse countries for their natural resources and disregard their natural rights.

“Our challenge, and the challenge of our next generation, is to create a political climate that expects peace and despises war. That expects justice and is intolerant of intolerance. That expects hope and ignores cynicism.”

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