

Arlington National Cemetery Address

Three score and ten months ago, our great nation sent its troops into the Middle East in an attempt to bring forth to that region, a mission conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that there must be peace among countries and no sponsoring of terrorism.

Now we are engaged in a great international war, testing whether the family of nations, dedicated to peace and civility, can long endure terrorist enemies. At this site, on the rolling hills of Arlington National Cemetery, we have come to dedicate a portion of this field, as the final resting place for those who have given their lives that this principle of freedom between the nations might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

On television and news reports, we have seen our brave men and women, living and dead, make sacrifices on foot, in the air, and on seas to bring freedom to the oppressed peoples in this region. We have seen their struggles up close and personal as never before witnessed in our country and we must recognize that our soldiers' sacrifices are beyond our poor power to describe. Although these words may be replayed over and over again, it is our soldiers' sacrifices that may never be duplicated.

It is for us the living to be dedicated to support our troops on their peace-keeping mission, which currently has no end in sight. The lack of a deadline should not diminish our will. Our will is inspired because we are freedom-loving people, freedom for us and for all people everywhere. This dedication to peace and freedom may not wither, cannot wither, and will not wither from the earth.

Sara Serritos
Chicago, Illinois