Mr. Speaker, while we are often focused on the things that

make us different from other cultures,

the recent news in Iran illustrates that

there are far more things that bind us

than that divide us. Freedom of speech,

democracy and respect for basic fairness are not uniquely American or

Western values. They are hardwired

into all of us and are as elemental to

the human experience as is the need for

food, water or love.

We will likely have political differences with the Government of Iran

for years to come. Despite this, let us

all remember that the Iranian people

want many of the same things that

Americans do. They want their voices

to be heard just like us. They want

their government to be just, open and

accessible just like us. They want their

economy to be strong and for their

country to work towards greater peace

and understanding around the world just like us.