Madam Speaker, back

in 2009, my good friend and the cochair

of the House Democracy Partnership,

DAVID PRICE of North Carolina, and I

had the opportunity to visit former

General—and at that time, U.S. Ambassador—

Karl Eikenberry, Ambassador

to Afghanistan.

We were at the Ambassador’s residence

in Kabul, and I was struck with

a statement that was made by General

Ambassador Eikenberry. He said we

have a tendency, as Americans, to express

appreciation to men and women

in uniform, those men and women who

served in our Nation’s Armed Forces

around the world, but too rarely do we

extend our appreciation to the men and

women who represent the United

States of America in the Foreign Service

as diplomats around the world, and

General Eikenberry encouraged us to

do that. And Mr. PRICE and I have consistently

done that in the visits of the

House Democracy Partnership to the 17

countries with which we’ve partnered

over the past 7 years.

I have to say that 3 years later, just

a few months ago, Mr. PRICE and I were

leading a delegation to Afghanistan

and we recounted that story to our

great diplomat, Ryan Crocker, the U.S.

Ambassador to Afghanistan. Ambassador

Crocker, when we shared the

story with him, reminded us that more

U.S. Ambassadors have been killed

since the Vietnam War than generals

or admirals. We know that down at the

Harry S. Truman Building, there is a

plaque that lists the names of the 231

U.S. diplomats who have been killed

since the first death in 1780. And,

Madam Speaker, I have to say that the

news that we have of the tragic death

of Ambassador Chris Stevens in

Benghazi, the U.S. consulate in Libya,

is very sad news for all of us.

Now, the upheaval in the Arab world

has brought about many great things.

For the first time in millennia, there

are individuals who have been able to

participate in elections and make decisions.

But then we get the sad and

tragic news that Ambassador Stevens

and, according to the early reports,

two marines, maybe another Foreign

Service officer, were killed in this tragic

attack.

I would like to say that we have

spent time there. We were just in

Libya, Mr. PRICE and I, just a few

weeks before Ambassador Stevens arrived,

and Libya is a place that has

held out great promise. I am determined,

as I know Mr. PRICE is, to ensure

that the promise that we saw several

weeks ago in Libya will not be

shattered by the tragic death of Ambassador

Stevens.

Madam Speaker, I’m pleased to be

joined by my dear friend and colleague,

Mr. PRICE, and would like to yield to

him at this point.

I thank my friend for

his contribution.

Madam Speaker, if I may simply extend

condolences to the loved ones of

Ambassador Stevens and to say that we

need to ensure that those who are responsible

for this tragic death are

brought to justice. And we need to do

everything that we can to continue to

encourage the development of the rule

of law, self-determination, political

pluralism, and, as Mr. PRICE has just

said, the development of democratic institutions

around the world. It’s a universal

right, and the United States of

America is the single best model for

that.

So our thoughts and prayers, again,

are with the loved ones of Ambassador

Stevens.