I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. DREIER and I have partnered for

many years in the work of the House

Democracy Partnership, which we and

many others in this body believe in

very deeply—that we need to be good

colleagues, not just nationally, but

internationally. And we need to reach

out in ways that can strengthen democracy,

strengthen representative institutions,

in countries that are friends

of our country. We can help encourage

and strengthen those parliaments.

That’s exactly why we visited Libya

back in the spring, a delegation led by

Mr. DREIER. We were there a few weeks

before Ambassador Stevens arrived.

We were struck by the promise of

Libya. Of course they’ve had 42 years of

dictatorial rule. The country has been

liberated through the efforts of NATO

allies. There are still major challenges—

obviously, security challenges,

as we are learning in a tragic way

today—but the country is gradually

being secured. Constituent assembly

elections have been held and parliamentary

elections are on the way.

So we have great hope for Libya. We

have been and we will be a friend to

Libya in helping to realize the promise

of the Arab Spring.

Our solemn purpose here today is to

mark this tragic loss, the eighth Ambassador

in U.S. history to be killed in

the line of duty. Our personnel in

Libya are dedicated personnel, the best

that the U.S. has to offer. The work

that they’re doing there is challenging

and dangerous. The work promotes our

national interest and is very, very valuable

to Libya and to us. This horrible

tragedy is one that we want to mark in

this House here today, as we honor the

victims of this attack and those who

continue to serve.