Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the important

progress being made in Iraq. Let me remind my colleagues and the

American people of the incredible accomplishments United States troops

and the Iraqi people have achieved over the last 4 years.

Saddam Hussein is behind bars, and al Qaeda's top leaders have been

eliminated. Iraqi security forces currently participate in more than 90

percent of all security operations, and the Iraqi people are

increasingly coming forth with actionable intelligence about terrorist

activity.

But, Mr. Speaker, the progress in Iraq cannot be measured solely on

our military success. The Iraqi people can now watch commercial

television. They can read independent newspapers. Women are part of the

political process. In fact, women secured 31 percent of the seats in

the Iraqi National Assembly. Primary school enrollment has increased by

nearly 3 million children, and Iraqi medical schools now graduate more

than 2,000 doctors a year.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we congratulate the Iraqi people on these

successes, let's not forget to thank our troops for the important work

they are doing in Iraq, training soldiers, building schools, working

every day for security and freedom in the Middle East.