Mr. Speaker, as the House prepares to

consider a resolution for victory in the global war on terrorism, I

would like to congratulate U.S. troops and coalition forces for

training Iraqi security forces.

In 3 years, coalition troops have transformed hundreds of thousands

of Iraqi volunteers into battle-tested Iraqi security forces. The

Defense Department's quarterly report recently stated that there are

more than 263,400 trained and equipped Iraqi security forces.

Additionally, the Iraqi Army now controls 30,000 square miles of

territory, an area roughly the size of my home State of South Carolina.

Nearly two-thirds of combat operations are now conducted by Iraqis

alone or jointly with coalition forces.

Day by day, Iraqis are defeating terrorists and gaining control over

their country. Progress in Iraq is helping to ensure security in

America, and we must remain committed to completing this critical

mission protecting American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget

September 11.