Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our brave servicemen

and women for their exceptional work in fighting the global war on

terror.

I recently spent time in Iraq with the 48th Brigade Combat Unit of

the Georgia Army National Guard. This unit was doing some incredible

humanitarian work for the Iraqi people, building schools and managing

health clinics. Of course, these aren't the stories that you read about

on the front page of the New York Times, so I want to share one with

you today.

One evening during my trip, I was having dinner with a young sergeant

named Keith Weathers. This sergeant would explain to me why his unit

was doing so much to help the Iraqi people. Sergeant Weathers said it

was because he and most Americans have hope and opportunity, and it was

his mission to share the abundant opportunities our Nation enjoys with

those struggling to achieve freedom in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, our soldiers are bringing hope and opportunity for the

Iraqi people every day. The war on terror is not an easy fight, nor is

it an expedient fight, but it is undoubtedly the right fight.

I hope we all take Sergeant Weathers's words to heart and continue

supporting our troops and their mission.