Mr. Speaker, Friday's The Post and

Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, detailed the dire consequences

of setting artificial timelines for withdrawal from Iraq. The editorial

states that it would be tragic if the rug should be pulled from under

U.S. forces by the U.S. Congress.

The political message coming from House Democrats threatens to throw

efforts to stabilize Iraq off balance. As The Post and Courier, where I

was a former reporter, concludes, General Petraeus should be given the

time and forces he needs to succeed, and not a legislative recipe for

failure. Democrats and Republicans should be united to remember that al

Qaeda spokesman for Osama bin Laden, Zawahiri, has clearly identified

that Iraq and Afghanistan are the central fronts in the global war on

terrorism. Bin Laden has specifically stated,

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

September 11.