Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I was pleased

to see The New York Times acknowledge Afghanistan and Iraq as the

central front in America's struggle against Islamic extremism. It

further cites how the United States is making progress turning security

efforts over to the Iraqi military and police forces.

The Washington Post covered the year-end review by General David

Petraeus and General Ray Odierno and highlighted how over the last 2

years there's been a 92 percent decrease in security incidents and a 90

percent decrease in civilian deaths due to the surge. Attacks have

dropped from more than 200 a day in 2 years to approximately 15 today.

I want to thank General Petraeus and General Odierno, our troops,

military families, and veterans for their commitment to victory in Iraq

and Afghanistan to protect American families at home by defeating

terrorists overseas.

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

September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Welcome, Anna Grace Wilson, born December 17, 2009, daughter of

Jennifer and Alan Wilson, at Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia,

South Carolina.