Mr. Speaker, as my stepson, Douglas Lehtinen, and

his fiancee, Lindsay Nelson, wrap up their mission in Iraq, where they

have been serving as Marine officers flying F-18s, I want to thank all

of the brave men and women who wear our Nation's uniform for their

commitment and the service that they are performing. I am pleased that

the President's budget submitted to Congress this week provides more

funding for the protection of our troops overseas.

The budget also provides the necessary funds to win the war on terror

and enables our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to defeat the enemy and

protect our liberties. The budget calls for funding that will help our

military transform itself to face current and emerging challenges.

Whether conventional military threats to our security interests or

unconventional ones from terrorists and their supporters, we must be

prepared for what tomorrow brings. Thank you, Mr. President, for

supporting our troops.