Mr. Speaker, it is said that a picture is worth a thousand

words. And yesterday this photograph was taken by a UPI photographer,

remarkably, on the streets of Fallujah in Iraq. It depicts the

gratitude of an ordinary Iraqi to a United States Marine who, along

with many Marines and constituents of mine from Indiana, are patrolling

the streets of that war-torn city at this very hour.

I bring this photograph because in the midst of the heartbreak of the

loss of American soldiers over the past several weeks, some say this

means that the Iraqi people do not want us there, that they fail to

appreciate the sacrifices that we have made in the blood of our

countrymen.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not what I saw when I was in Iraq a month

ago, in Basra and in Baghdad. The Iraqis with whom I met spoke with

passion and emotion the same message depicted in this picture: a

message of gratitude to the American soldier, gratitude to the American

people, not only for ending the reign of Saddam Hussein but for staying

the course and seeing them through to freedom. And as the President

said, in the interest of these good people, these soldiers and this

country will not waver.