Madam Speaker, in October 2002, Saddam

Hussein ridiculously reported he received 100 percent support during a

sham election in which he was the only candidate in the race. Three

years later due the bravery of American troops and Iraqi security

forces, the people of Iraq now have an historic opportunity to select

275 individuals from over 6,655 candidates to serve in their national

Council of Representatives.

National elections in Iraq are another symbol of progress and another

demonstration of our coalition troops' efforts, including my son who

served a year in Iraq, to spread freedom throughout the world. Our

brave soldiers recognize that they are fighting in a war that will

secure democracy in Iraq which ultimately protects American families

from terrorists who would rather attack our citizens.

As the Iraqi people continue down the path of democracy, they should

know the American people are proud of their continued successes and

believe in the future of Iraq.

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

September 11.