Mr. Speaker, I dipped my finger in purple ink today in

symbolic unity and in support of the free election in Iraq, the first

free election in the history of that country. Their actions this

weekend were not about America or necessarily an endorsement of

everything we are doing, although I think that was an effect of it; but

their actions were really about a free country, about democracy, about

choice, about self-government and self-determination, throwing off the

shackles of oppression and joining the world community. A 57 percent

voter turnout in the face and threat of death and destruction. Compare

that to America, 61 percent just this November, and it was the highest

voting turnout in 38 years. Or in my home county in Savannah, Georgia,

Chatham County, the last time we elected a Governor, we had a 48

percent voter turnout and no one was threatened with death or suicide

bombers or anything like that.

It took America 7 years to win the Revolutionary War and then it was

not until 1789 that we threw out the Articles of Confederation and

adopted our Constitution. It has taken us many, many years. For Iraq

they have many struggling years ahead, but they have taken a very

important first step.