Madam Speaker, as a member of the

Congressional Iraqi Women's Caucus, I am honored to recognize the

bravery and strength of Iraqi and Afghan women today in developing

democracies. In the face of great danger, the women of Iraq and

Afghanistan are displaying tremendous courage.

In January, Iraqi women risked their lives to participate in Iraq's

first free elections in over 50 years. After the votes were tallied,

their bravery was rewarded, as over one-third of Iraq's newly elected

legislators are women.

The liberation of Iraq delivered hope and a future to Iraqi women,

and they are helping to turn the promises of democracy into realities

for their children and grandchildren. Today, a group of Iraqi and

Afghan women are visiting the halls of Congress. I am pleased to

celebrate their accomplishments and encourage them to continue their

work for freedom and democracy.

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

September 11.