Mr. Speaker, as true as my friend from Georgia has just

said, we are about to begin consideration of a very important

resolution. It is one which I believe should, in fact, enjoy strong

bipartisan support. It is noncontroversial in that it is designed

simply to, as the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman Hyde) said last

night before the Committee on Rules, provide commendation to our troops

and to the Iraqi people and to the coalition forces for the fact that a

year ago this week they began this effort to bring about the liberation

of the people of Iraq, and there has been tremendous success.

We often hear of the negatives, Mr. Speaker, but I think it is

important, as Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has pointed out time and time

again, we are seeing schools rebuilt. We are seeing all kinds of very,

very positive developments, even though we deal with some serious

challenges.

So, Mr. Speaker, my message as we prepare for consideration of this

rule, which will be debated for an hour and then we will have 4 hours

of debate which will allow for a wide range of views to come forward, I

hope that at the end of the day, the United States House of

Representatives will stand firmly behind our troops and this effort

which we mark the anniversary of right now.