Mr. Speaker, today this House should recognize that just

1 year ago the campaign started in Iraq to liberate the Iraqi people. A

significant part of the war on terrorism, military victory in Iraq, and

the capture of Saddam Hussein have helped move the world closer to

safety.

Make no mistake about it, the decision to go into Iraq was not taken

lightly. And the price of freedom is costly, but we must endure. We

must recognize and relate the victories that have been achieved.

Unfortunately, we cannot count on our own news outlets to be

objective and complete in this, because just last week, Mr. Speaker, a

momentous event occurred that has yet to receive sufficient mention in

the press. And this, of course, was the signing of the interim Iraqi

Constitution by the 25 signatories.

The press scarcely reported what will likely be the outcome of this

constitution and how this will shape the world events for the rest of

this century.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate our President on his leadership

for getting this done. I want to congratulate Ambassador Bremer.

I want to congratulate our soldiers and our Reservists who dedicate

themselves to ensuring as much safety as possible for the people of

Iraq. As we focus on the future, we must understand that sacrifices

have to be made for democracy and freedom to flourish for generations

to come.