Mr. Speaker, a year ago our troops went into Iraq, removed

Saddam Hussein from power, and the world is a safer place with him

gone. Hussein was a homicidal tyrant who disregarded international law,

basic human rights, and invaded his neighbors at will. He supported

Palestinian terrorists and suicide bombers. He used chemical weapons of

mass destruction against Iran and his own people. He killed thousands

and thousands.

Hussein reigned over the people of Iraq in terror and he terrorized

the region. Human rights organizations report that women told them that

rape was routinely used by Iraqi officials as a means of torture and

intimidation. Electric shock, pulling out fingernails, dripping acid on

victims' skin, gouging out eyes, were torture methods used by Saddam's

regime.

Iraq has come a long way since then. And if we stay the course, we

can build a future for Iraq free of this kind of terror and deal a

deathblow to the terrorists who rely on murder and coercion and death

to advance the terrible agenda by building a free democratic Iraq.