Mr. Speaker, Americans are rightfully

confident that the prison abusers are a tiny few of the over 300,000

American troops who have served in the war on terror to protect

American families.

A more representative symbol of our troops' efforts is the Old

Backpack 4 Iraq Program of the 3-178 Field Artillery Battalion of the

South Carolina Army National Guard led by Lt. Col. Mark King currently

deployed in Iraq. They are collecting used and new backpacks containing

school supplies to be provided to Iraqi children.

The backpacks can be loaded with pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons,

rulers, construction paper, a small teddy bear, shampoo, toothpaste,

toothbrush, BAND-AIDS, soap, wash cloth, and a towel.

I urge my colleagues to assist in this collection and bring backpacks

to the Second Congressional District offices in Washington, West

Columbia and Beaufort, along with offices of the Lexington County

Chronicle. The first load must be completed by Thursday, May 21, so I

can personally take them with me on a delegation to Iraq the next day.

We will continue to collect them in the future.

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

September 11.