Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of

some outstanding young Minnesotans.

What began as a routine service project for the Hosanna Church Junior

High Youth Group has grown into a community-wide effort. The students,

led by George Macaulay, set out to collect school supplies for Iraqi

children. Once they had filled one box, however, they became inspired

to do more. The students reached out to other groups within their

church, then to other community groups. As of last week, the students

had collected 20 boxes of school supplies and were still going strong.

I recall clearly the smiling faces of the Iraqi schoolchildren in my

first congressional visit to Iraq 2 years ago. They were eager to

learn, and their teachers and parents expressed gratitude for our

assistance.

The Hosanna Youth Group is making a meaningful contribution to these

children and demonstrating the commitment of U.S. citizens to the

spread of knowledge and freedom.

I thank Mr. Macaulay, Alex, Jay, Patrick, Jack, Justin, Alexander,

and Carter for all they have done. Their efforts are an inspiration to

us all.