Mr. Speaker, Saturday's election in

Iraq was a shining example of democracy in action and continued proof

that the Iraqi people are bravely determining the fate of their nation.

After Iraqi security forces and coalition troops worked together

efficiently to provide security for the landmark event, the day was

calm and the election was conducted professionally. On Sunday, the

Chicago Tribute reported that Iraqis said they felt safer in this

election than they did in January.

Most importantly, millions of Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, and Turkmen

cast their ballots for a constitution that will protect their rights

and serve as a blueprint for their nation's future. Their strong

participation demonstrated that Iraqis respect the constitutional

process and believe in the promise of democracy. Their success in

building a civil society is a critical step of the global war on

terrorism, protecting American families.

Today, I am honored to congratulate the Iraqi National Assembly, the

Iraqi people, and Iraqi and coalition troops on this historic

accomplishment.

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

September 11.