Mr. Speaker, we continue to hear more

good news about Iraq's steps to build a civil society opposing

terrorism.

Today the Independent Electoral Commission confirmed that the Iraqi

people voted by 78.9 percent to adopt their landmark constitution. The

turnout of 63 percent exceeded January's election turnout of 60

percent, and the elections are being hailed as a shining success.

Terrorists attempted to intimidate voters, but they were unable to stop

9.8 million Iraqi voters from exercising their freedom.

Additionally, Iraqi Security Forces deserve enormous praise for their

ability to provide excellent security at polling centers and the

barriers outside these centers. Every day these forces are playing a

larger role in protecting and securing their country, inspired by our

courageous troops.

The passage of Iraq's constitution marks yet another milestone for

the nation. Iraqi citizens continue to demonstrate they are serious

about establishing a democracy and committed to the future of their

nation. Their success in building a civil society is a critical step in

the global war on terrorism and is helping to protect American

families.

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

September 11.