Mr. Speaker, last weekend I had the

opportunity to visit our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and was able to

thank them personally for their selfless sacrifice and for their

service to our country.

From the moment that I arrived in country along with five of our

colleagues, there was an extreme sense of pride, purpose, and

confidence in the soldiers we met. These troops are led by the finest

military leaders in the world, such as General Ray Odierno, General

David McKiernan, General Lloyd Austin, to name just a few, with each of

their commands providing superb support.

So I come to the floor today with a message from the troops, a

message that I found somewhat selfless, but not at all surprising

coming from these fine men and women.

Mr. Speaker, they asked me to tell the stories of their success, that

they're making a difference. That the cut-and-run strategy that

politicians, who have absolutely zero battlefield let alone military

experience, preach from this floor is not the support that they and

their families expect or deserve.

So with that I tell you a story about a women's health clinic in

Baghdad. This clinic, like many in Iraq, has intermittent electricity

throughout the day and little, if any, after the sun goes down. After

spending 28 years in healthcare, I can tell you that I know firsthand

you cannot decide when a baby decides to be born or when an emergency

occurs.

So what did our soldiers do? Well, they did a lot.

For example, they installed solar panels on the roof of the clinic

and batteries to store that energy. That clinic is now operational 24

hours a day, 7 days a week, providing much needed care to women and

babies in need.

And I assure you, Mr. Speaker, this is one of countless examples of

what occurs daily in Iraq.

No, you won't read this in the newspaper or see it on cable TV, but,

Mr. Speaker, it is precisely the type of action and goodwill that our

young men and women in uniform perform on a daily basis that deserves

recognition.

So I appreciate the opportunity to thank our troops and to share

their message with you.