Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the debate on Iraq today I think confuses the American

people. After all, one side focuses solely on parliamentary procedure

or when they do on substance they focus solely on the tough times and

the challenges that we face, which are very real. But its message all

too often is devoid of any mention of progress. Sometimes it even

suggests that we are not better off, we are not safer since Saddam's

capture. However, the other side, Mr. Speaker, the side that I am on,

talks openly of our soldiers' historic victories, how just 1 year after

the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Saddam is in a dark cell, Osama

is in a dark cave, and General Qaddafi is learning to play better with

others.

The good news for the American public is that soon they will not have

to rely on the media or the politics from either side of the aisle as

the troop rotations take place. The public will get to hear from the

soldiers themselves, our hometown heroes. And the story that they are

going to hear is moving, it is amazing, it is historic. On the sobering

side, the public will hear of

mass graves discovered and death cells shut down. On the thrilling

side, they will hear about some of the things I saw myself when I was

in Iraq just a few months ago. The public will hear of schools and

universities that are open and operating, clinics and hospitals that

are open and serving, and democratically elected governing councils

that are open and governing. They will hear that well over 100,000

Iraqis now serve in the military and the police and that water projects

and economic development are well under way. In Mosul when I was there,

I saw a sign on the wall of the headquarters of the 101st which read:

``We are in a race to win over the Iraqi people. What have you done to

contribute to victory today?'' The answer from our magnificent troops

is clear, a lot, an unbelievable amount. And Lord willing, the public

is going to hear more each and every day about just what these

fantastic brave men have done.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.