Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and I rise in support of

this resolution, support of our troops and particularly pay my great

admiration to the 124th Infantry, Bravo Company, that just returned

safely to Palm Beach County, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 557 and to offer my

gratitude to all the men and women who have worked, and who continue to

work, so hard to serve their country in Iraq. In particular, I'd like

to extend my respect and admiration to Captain Joseph Lyon and the

reservists of the 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry, Bravo Company, who

have returned home safely to West Palm Beach from service in Iraq.

The contributions of these brave soldiers can be seen every day in

the numerous improvements in the Iraqi economy and society. With the

aid of the Coalition forces, the transfer of power to the people of

Iraq is progressing smoothly. Iraqi forces are gradually relieving and

will completely replace coalition forces in all aspects of the

reconstruction.

I am thankful to all who have helped the Iraqi people establish a

stable and peaceful country. By doing so, we defend our people from the

danger of Iraq returning to being a haven for terrorists. Today, Iraq

is a safer place and is on the road to establishing their own democracy

to serve as an example in the heart of the Middle East.

I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 557.