Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 557 expressing the

views of the House on the liberation of Iraq. Frankly, I find myself

amazed that this resolution is the topic of such an extended and

spirited debate.

Who can seriously dispute H.R. 557's main points? The world is safer

with Saddam Hussein in prison as opposed to being in power. If anyone

questions that, let them ask the citizens of the two Muslim countries

he invaded, the Kurds whom he gassed or the Shiites whom he butchered

by the thousands. The Iraqi people should be commended for their

courage in overcoming 35 years of oppression and they should be

recognized for adopting an interim constitution and moving forward

toward a democracy, similar to the same situation faced in our own

Civil War.

Certainly the United States military and our allies in the coalition

deserve to be recognized for their heroic service and their valor on

the battlefield and their continuing struggle in Iraq.

The American people and our allies ought to also take pride in what

we have done to improve the lives of the average Iraqi. Since the end

of the war, 4.2 million children and 700,000 pregnant mothers have been

vaccinated. Over 30 million vaccine doses have been procured and 22

million actually delivered to Iraq. By the end of 2004, 90 percent of

Iraqi children will have been vaccinated against polio, tuberculosis,

and measles; 600 primary health clinics have been reequipped to provide

health care, dozens of schools opened, colleges kept operational and

the sanitation extended.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what America and Americans have done in

Iraq. I hope and trust that pride is shared by Members of this House

and every American.