Mr. Speaker, I represent Fort Benning, the home of the

Infantry in Columbus, Georgia, and I rise in support of the resolution

to pay tribute to those Americans serving in uniform who have brought

liberty to 24 million Iraqi citizens. It is their courage, commitment,

and endurance that made possible the unprecedented success that we have

witnessed halfway across the world.

While soldiers are hunting down leaders of Saddam's regime, Americans

and Iraqis are working together to construct hospitals and schools and

establish a new Iraqi government. As a physician, I know what it takes

to provide health care for a large number of patients. That is why it

amazes me to learn 52 clinics have been renovated and over 600 have

been reequipped to provide primary health care.

Mr. Speaker, I call attention to this chart which shows that more

than 22 million doses of vaccines have been delivered to 4.2 million

Iraqi children and 700,000 pregnant women. In fact, by the end of 2004,

over 90 percent of Iraqi children under the age of 5 will be immunized

against diseases such as polio, tuberculosis, and measles.

In February alone, 800 tons of high-protein meals were delivered to

malnourished children. Sadly, those who oppose us are not idle. I do

not know how long the war on terrorism will last, but I know America is

right and our military and humanitarian efforts must continue until

this evil is eradicated not only in the Middle East but in the entire

world.

While we hope our allies will not abandon us when we face inevitable

hardships, if necessary, we have the courage and the commitment to

stand alone.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers remain with the soldiers, sailors, airmen and

marines deployed around the world, and with their families who wait for

them at home with love and patience. I wholeheartedly support this

timely resolution.