Mr. Speaker, at the end of August the

goal was achieved of a transition of security in Iraq from an active

combat role of Americans to the security forces of the people of Iraq.

All Americans should express gratitude for the courage and resolve of

our military and military families.

Newsweek's cover page of March 8 declared: ``Victory at Last,'' with

the emergence of a democratic Iraq. The Wall Street Journal

editorialized

On September 6 the

Washington Times proclaimed ``Mission Accomplished'' in Iraq.

As the grateful father of two sons who served in Iraq and as

cochairman of the Victory in Iraq Caucus established with our former

colleague, Mark Green of Wisconsin, I know firsthand of the

achievements of the American military personnel. I am confident with

the leadership of General David Petraeus, based on the Bush success of

Iraq, that the Obama surge in Afghanistan will promote liberty and

peace.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget

September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.