Mr. Speaker, just over 3 years ago the world watched

as a treacherous tyrant disregarded United Nations resolutions and

burrowed into the bunkers of Baghdad. Within a short period of time,

coalition forces dismantled Saddam Hussein's regime, which was built on

fear, murders, assassinations, torture and lies. And today this

despotic dictator stands on trial before the Iraqi people in a

courtroom that is a stone's throw from his prison cell.

While insurgents and terrorists continue their attempts to dismantle

the progress that the Iraqi people have made, our resolution to see a

free Iraq

must remain as strong as ever. Iraqis have also demonstrated their

commitment to rebuilding their nation from the ashes of tyranny by

their overwhelming participation in three democratic elections.

On the eve of completion of Iraq's democratically elected government,

coalition forces and Iraqi police tracked down and killed the man Osama

bin Laden referred to as the prince of al Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al

Zarqawi. Zarqawi led one of the bloodiest insurgent groups in Iraq in a

bloody campaign of shootings, bombings beheadings and kidnappings aimed

at derailing democracy in Iraq.

America is the world's leader in laying the foundations for freedom

and future peace. We have stood for the spread of democracy around the

world. We believe in it and have stood for it, not only for ourselves,

for Europeans, Latin Americans, Asians and Africans. We have stood for

it in the Middle East for the Israelis and now for Arabs in the wider

Muslim world, in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

With our leadership ideals that have inspired our history, freedom,

democracy and human dignity are increasingly inspiring individuals in

nations throughout the world, because free nations tend toward peace.

The advance of liberty will make America more secure.

Americans have felt the sting of the terrorist threat on our own

soil, and we must make clear that we are dedicated to preventing any

future attacks by tracking and eliminating terrorist threats. America

is more secure today, thanks to the brave men and women of our Armed

Forces whose dedication, patriotism and bravery are helping advance

freedom and democracy in Iraq and around the world.

President Bush said it best while speaking to our troops during his

recent visit to Iraq: this is a moment, this is a time where the world

can turn one way or the other, where the world can be a better place or

a more dangerous place. The United States of America and citizens such

as yourselves are dedicated to making sure that the world we leave

behind is a better place for all. Support freedom, support peace,

support our troops, support this resolution.