Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the new freedoms

women have recently discovered in the Middle East, freedoms that the

hardworking heroes in uniform have given them, freedoms they now not

only cherish but themselves will fight for.

There are 50 million new lovers of freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Their liberation from oppression should compel every freedom-loving

citizen on Earth to rejoice. I too am so proud of the freedom we as a

Nation have brought to the oppressed.

However, some were more oppressed than others. Women had no voice, no

opportunity, no hope, no dreams. All of that is changing, changing

because we have championed the cause of freedom. Millions of young

girls this very day are getting something they dared not dream about a

few short years ago: an education. Today, women are voting. They are

also serving as legislators in town councils and places where, before

our commitment to liberation, they dared not even look a man in the

face. They have been liberated. We are their liberators. We can and

should be proud.

Yes, more needs to be done, but in lands where women were treated

worse than cattle, a revolution is occurring, a revolution of respect,

a liberation of lives. Our actions have made the lives of millions of

women not just better on the margins but have actually giving them

hope, endowed them with freedom, and dared them to dream.

We have much to be proud of. I am proud of our men and women in

uniform who stand in harm's way. I am proud that this great country

stands for good and opposes evil. I am proud that this Congress and

this President

understand that freedom is God's gift to all mankind and that evil

tolerated is evil assisted.