Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I am just a little overwhelmed by the previous two speakers. What we

are here for is a resolution that celebrates

successes in the war on terror. Yet, to make their arguments, they

might as well go back to World War II and all kinds of things that have

nothing to do with the war on terror, with the national security of

this Nation, with trying to protect the American people, and while we

are doing that, spreading freedom and democracy around the world,

because, Mr. Speaker, next Wednesday, the whole world is going to stop

what it is doing and it is going to look toward the Tigres and the

Euphrates Rivers, the cradle of civilization, and witness the miracle

of democracy taking hold in Iraq.

For a generation, the proud and resilient people of that great nation

were brutalized by a dictator. Today, they are free, and next Wednesday

they will take up their God-given, human right to self-determination.

The resolution before us acknowledges all that has been won in

Operation Iraqi Freedom and all that has been sacrificed in that

victory. Words, of course, cannot replace the years lost to millions of

Iraqi families during Saddam Hussein's reign of terror nor can they

bring back the brave American heroes lost in battle since the war began

last March.

Despite the finest planning, equipment and training in military

history, servicemen and women of the American armed forces are still at

war, and no matter how just and how necessary wars may be, they still

rob us of the bravest and truest of the young.

Just as the miracle of June 30 will be a celebration of the Iraqi

people, it will also be a celebration of the men and women who

liberated them from evil and especially a celebration of the legacy of

service left by those who will not make it home. That legacy, Mr.

Speaker, is not one of grief and regret but of service, duty, love and

courage. It is a legacy of honor which cannot be undone by the

unyielding winds of history or the frantic storms of politics. It

cannot be undone because we will not let it. Those young men and women

will not have died in vain.

Therefore, this resolution affirms Congress' absolute support for

democracy and freedom in Iraq and for the forthcoming Iraqi interim

government sworn to provide both. It also reaffirms our commitment to

see the job of stabilizing and securing Iraq to the end.

Terrorists remain in Iraq targeting Iraqi government officials and

American and coalition troops.

Terrorists remain in Iraq, targeting Iraqi government officials and

American and coalition troops. Those terrorists, like all terrorists in

this war on terror, must be killed or captured before democracy can

truly be secured in Iraq or anywhere else in the world.

In order for America's war on terror to succeed, Iraq's interim

government, and ultimately the democratic government elected next year,

must also succeed. Its success depends on the continued military,

economic, and diplomatic support of the United States and the

international community, which President Bush has pledged and garnered

since before Operation Iraqi Freedom began. That support will remain in

place as long as it is necessary, and I know all Americans hope for a

strong and enduring alliance between the United States and a sovereign

democratic Iraq.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, there is one man who deserves special

thanks in this debate, a man who stared down enemies and appeasers

alike and marshaled the civilized world to victory in Iraq. Were it not

for the courage and vision of George W. Bush, June 30 would be just

another Wednesday in Iraq. Instead, it is a day to be remembered,

fraught with danger, to be sure, a day, too, of unfinished business,

but a day of pride in this country.

For June 30 is not the end of the road, but it is just another step

along mankind's unending journey toward freedom. We will not be divided

by our enemies or deterred from our goals in the war on terror in Iraq,

Afghanistan, or anywhere else in the world, and that is due to the

steadfast leadership of our Commander in Chief. Thank you, Mr.

President.

So I urge all Members to support this resolution and send a signal of

solidarity from the American people to the people of Iraq and to the

nations around the world that all people who seek to be free are now

and will always be our friends.