Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from

Indiana for yielding to me.

There are some, both at home and abroad, who would have us believe

that Abu Ghraib is the true face of this war, that the acts of a few

troubled individuals represent our cause. I believe there is a

dramatically different face, and I would like to describe it to the

Members.

In a recent news story, Lt. Riley Sharon, an Army emergency room

charge nurse from St. Cloud, Minnesota, a city I am proud to represent,

and a fellow alumnus from St. John's University, tells of incidents at

the Abu Ghraib prison when it came under attack from mortars fired by

insurgents, killing scores of prisoners and wounding hundreds of

detainees.

In one 4-hour period, insurgents killed 22 detainees and Lt.

Sharbonno's group treated over 100 enemy detainee patients. At the time

Sharbonno and his fellow soldiers were fighting to save the lives of

those who might have gladly taken theirs, they were under such heavy

fire, they had to wear a Kevlar helmet and a bullet-proof vest.

As Lt. Sharbonno said, ``I am unaware of any military in the history

of war that has built an entire hospital for the exclusive treatment of

enemy detainees or POWs. I don't understand the media's insistence on

ignoring the atrocities committed by anti-coalition forces or the

amazing things that the military has accomplished over here.''

The brave work of the likes of Lt. Sharbonno is the real face of this

war. This is the courage, compassion, and humanity of the American

soldiers who fight for us all in this war on terror. Too little

attention has been paid to their noble work and sacrifices. Too little

attention has also been paid to recent successes in moving Iraq towards

a democratic form of government.

The Iraqi Governing Council has shown some real initiative recently.

They selected a president America supposedly did not want and a prime

minister the UN did not want. But by showing independence, they now

have more credibility amongst Iraqis and the international community.

The Security Council approved of a new government by a unanimous 15-to-

nothing vote. The new interim government got to work early, integrated

the many independent militias so that they are now part of the

solution, not a potential problem, and reorganized Iraqi security

forces. Al Sadr is now trying to be a political force rather than a

leader of a rebellious militia.

There is no doubt that there will be further bumps in the road on the

way to an elected government, but there can also be no doubt that

significant progress has been made.

And then we look at the actions of our enemies. If there is any

remaining doubt that this is truly a war between good and evil, it

should be gone. One can have no doubt at the depths of the enemies will

or hatred when we are forced to confront the atrocities committed

against Nick Berg and Paul Johnson.

The insurgents attack oil pipelines, a source of hope for the Iraqi

people. What is the point in this? Since the liberation of Iraq, the

wealth of her natural resources is hers again. An Iraqi-led Oil

Ministry controls the pipeline with revenues going to the Iraqi

treasury. Iraqi officials disburse the profits for the benefit of

Iraqis.

With the fall of the dictator's regime, the money no longer goes to

encourage hopeless and desperate Palestinian use to kill themselves

while they murder innocent. The revenues no longer subsidize a

megalomaniac's architectural fantasies in the form of grandiose

palaces. It no longer subsidizes the sadistic whims of the dictator's

sons.

The revenue from Iraqi oil are a chance for the Iraqi people to use

their own natural resources to educate Iraqi children, to build an

Iraqi health care system, an infrastructure, and a strong Iraqi

economy.

Mr. Speaker, the important question we should ask ourselves is why

are the terrorists so desperate? Why are they willing to commit so many

inhumane acts not just against Americans, but against the Iraqi people

as well? The terrorist leader Zarqawi's memo to Al Qaeda's leader,

Osama bin Laden, in that we find the explanation for their desperation.

When pleading for bin Laden's assistance in the Iraqi insurgency,

Zarqawi makes clear that his insurgency has failed to engender support

within the country. Zarqawi also acknowledges that they have been

unable to scare Americans into leaving, having been disabused of the

idea that he had earlier professed that Americans were ``the biggest

cowards that God has created.'' We have certainly proved him wrong. He

believes that the insurgents might be able to win if they are able to

kill enough Shiites so that the Shiites will attack the Sunni minority,

that by creating such turmoil, there will be a civil war. They clearly

understand what is at stake, the terrorists do. I hope we do.