Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this

time.

September 11, 2001, is a day that should be etched in the mind of

every American, because that is the day that terrorists chose to attack

America and that threat is still here. The primary function of our

Federal Government is to protect our citizens and we are doing our best

to see that happens.

It is now 1 year since the coalition forces entered Iraq to free

those people from Saddam Hussein's rule of terror. Freedom is

flourishing and the Iraqi people know they are better off. However,

terrorists are still doing everything they can to interrupt that and

see that does not happen. The Iraqi people are in control of their

destiny for the first time, and we are here today to encourage them in

that effort, and we are here today to say thank you to our troops, all

those men and women who have served in the past in this effort and who

are serving now over there, giving of themselves and giving their lives

so they can protect these freedoms that we all enjoy. We know the world

is safer today without Saddam Hussein.

We must never forget 9/11 and that we are fighting over there so we

do not have to fight the terrorists here at home. And no matter what

the terrorists try to do, they need to be reminded that these colors do

not run.