Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule because I

think it is a fair rule for a worthy resolution. And like a lot of my

constituents, I have spent time reflecting on what September 11 and the

war in Iraq has meant to our country, how terrorism affects our lives,

and what all of this means in the context of our world community, and I

have come to the conclusion that as complicated as our world is and as

tangled as the diplomacy surrounding our economic and military ties

with the rest of the world become, I know that there are certain basic

truths. And one of the great basic truths is the constant struggle

between good and evil. And there are times in our history when the

struggle is very clear, and today we are at one of those moments of

such clarity. The lines are drawn, and we know who is aligned on each

side.

America leads a fight that we did not seek against a movement founded

on distorted religious views and failed nations. This resolution marks

a victory for good, and it is so very important that when good triumphs

and advances that we celebrate that victory.

This resolution honors our men and women in uniform. They have made

the world a safer place for our children, and there are fewer greater

gifts than that. And today we are welcoming the Iraqi people into the

community of free nations. The resolution says to the world that

America was willing to take on this fight to dedicate the fruits of her

labor to free a horribly, horribly oppressed people a world away. Iraqi

success in rebuilding and being free is our greatest weapon against

terrorism. Terrorism seeks to destroy. Freedom builds. And that is why

we are in Afghanistan and why we are in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our troops, I thank our families, and the

communities that have supported them. And may God bless America.