I thank the distinguished

gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution brought

forth by our majority leader and others commemorating, celebrating the

extraordinarily historic accomplishment of the Iraqi people last

Sunday.

As our majority leader stated in a meeting where we were able to hear

him speak just a few minutes ago, what we saw, what the world saw in

Iraq on Sunday was more than an accomplishment. It was a miracle. But

it was a miracle made possible by the leadership of President Bush and

the Armed Forces of the United States and the coalition that have stood

firmly for the security of a people who were oppressed for decades and

who made it known to the entire world last Sunday that those thugs who

seek to cloak themselves in some sort of sector of Islamist thought are

nothing but a bunch of gangsters, thugs and gangsters who seek to

intimidate through violence and through terror.

So the world was able to see on Sunday the gangsters and the thugs

for what they are, a pathetic group dedicated to terror and

intimidation. The world has seen and was able to see, by the courage of

the millions and millions of Iraqis who, despite the threat to their

own lives, stood in line and the lines refused to be broken. As our

majority leader stated so eloquently in the meeting that we had, as I

stated before, earlier today, the lines refused to break even when the

bombs came and the attacks came and the injured were taken to hospitals

and the dead were mourned. Yet the lines remained to demonstrate to the

world that the Iraqi people not only seek but appreciate and will stand

for their freedom and that the gangsters and the thugs are simply

pathetic believers in violence.

I am a firm believer in the Bush doctrine. All people want to be free

and all people deserve to be free. There are a handful of tyrannies in

the world. Their day will soon come, also.

Just 90 miles from the shores of the United States there is a tyrant

who for 46 years has oppressed a people, also through the same gangster

tactics that these thugs in the Middle East use. Unfortunately, he has

all the weapons, and his people are unarmed. His day will soon come as

well.

This is a great day for history, for peace that we are celebrating

today with this resolution by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DeLay).

That is why I so strongly support it.