I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this

time.

Mr. Speaker, there have been so many images that have come out of the

election in Iraq that have warmed the hearts of all who love freedom.

My favorite was that of a woman holding up the victory sign accentuated

by the blue ink on her finger indicating that she had voted. That

victory sign stands for victory over dictatorship, for victory over

terror, victory for democracy, victory for freedom.

There have also been some statements from voters showing what they

think of their newfound freedoms. One voter remarked, ``I moved to mark

my finger with ink. I dipped it deep as if I was poking the eyes of all

the world's tyrants.''

The Iraqi people have spoken with a loud voice, and once again

freedom is on the march. This is thanks to the dedication not only of

the people of Iraq but certainly for all the service and the sacrifice

of our brave men and women in the armed services.

So I do find it amazing that some on the other side of the aisle and

throughout our Nation are calling for a quick pullout of our troops

from Iraq. We all want our troops to come home, and they will, as soon

as their mission is accomplished, as soon as it is completed. They will

not leave early and allow dictatorship and repression to return to fill

the vacuum left by their departure.

Many of these advocates of an early withdrawal were also in

opposition to President Ronald Reagan when he stood strong for freedom

against Soviet communism. These same detractors say that we should not

overhype the election in Iraq. In 1989, were they saying that we should

not overhype the fall of the Berlin Wall? Tell that to the people of

the former East Germany who now live in freedom, tell it to the people

of Poland, tell it to the people of the Czech Republic, tell it to the

people of Hungary, or to the people of the Ukraine, all of whom live in

freedom because of the steadfast determination of the American people

to spread liberty.

The flag of freedom has been raised high in Iraq, and we cannot and

must not leave Iraq before freedom and democracy take root. Because,

just as in Europe, the idea of freedom will resonate throughout the

Middle East.

Let freedom ring.