Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding

to me and leading us in this important subject matter. I appreciate the

opportunity to say a few words.

Before getting to the economy, I want to add some remarks to those of

the gentlewoman from Tennessee's discussion with regard to the Middle

East. I would like to paint this image in the mind of the people in the

country. And that is that as we see people demonstrating in the streets

of Lebanon, when they have made the pledge that they are not leaving

the public arena until they are a government governed by themselves and

that they are a free people, that magnificent display that is going on

in Lebanon today, as I watched that, I looked back through my mind's

eye and I asked myself where I have experienced anything like that

before; where I have seen anything like that in history.

It takes me back to the square in Prague, back in the early 1990s,

after the Berlin Wall came down. That was about November 9 when the

wall came down, and it echoed into about 1990, right before the Czechs

went to the square and stood there with their keys and rattled their

keys in the air. They stood for freedom, until today they are a free

people.

That miracle of freedom that echoed across Eastern Europe in that

time was not something anyone predicted. Yet our President stood just

outside this Capitol building on January 20 and gave his second

inaugural address, and even the liberal news media understood there was

a Bush doctrine, and that was the doctrine of freedom. He said in that

address: ``If you stand for freedom, we stand with you.''

Today, we stand with the Lebanese people, we stand with the Syrians,

we stand with the Iranians, and we stand with the Saudis. We stand with

all people on this planet that yearn for freedom.

Another thing that has happened there is that the fear factor has

disappeared in Lebanon. When the fear factor disappeared, the people

could freely stand in the streets. When that fear factor can disappear

in Iran, in Syria, in Saudi Arabia, and around the Middle East, they

can also come to the streets. Maybe before then.

When that day comes, we will no longer see the habitat that breeds

terror, and we will be able to actually stand here today and define a

victory in the war on terror, and that is the absence of the habitat

that breeds terrorists. And that is freedom.