Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon announced today that 2,000

American servicemen and women have been killed in Iraq. On this same

day, Iraqi officials announced that Iraq's constitution was approved

with nearly 80 percent of the vote.

This progress on the political front is in stark contrast with the

failure to set clear benchmarks on the security front.

As the casualties continue to mount and rise, the Bush administration

continues to refuse to lay out a strategy for a timeline for bringing

our troops home.

On this day of mourning, my thoughts and prayers are with the

families who have lost their loved ones and with all of our soldiers

still serving in Iraq today.

On this day of mixed messages, I renew our call to the administration

to outline their plans for bringing our troops home. The best way to

honor our soldiers is to find a safe and responsible exit for them from

a sovereign and independent Iraq.