Mr. Speaker, today we are here on the eve of the

elections in Iraq, and it is a significant victory within itself. We

congratulate our Iraqi friends on that victory.

Also, in Nashville, there is going to be plenty of purple to be seen

because that is a voting site for Iraqis in America to gather and cast

their vote. We have to congratulate the Kurdish population there on

that victory.

I just returned from Memphis holding town halls speaking to a Rotary

club. Our citizens understand this. This is a significant step. They

are talking to our men and women from the 278th who have returned,

families of the 101st who are currently deployed. They know progress is

being made. The Army has just surpassed its projections; 5,800 new

recruits have signed up because they are committed. They understand the

vision. And to celebrate all of this achievement, Moveon.org is taking

petitions to our district offices, calling for immediate withdrawal.

They just do not understand the significance of today. We celebrate the

success of the victories in Iraq.