Mr. Speaker, great and heartwarming news from Iraq.

Early this morning, I received an e-mail from a soldier serving in

Iraq which provides one small example of how democracy is progressing

in Iraq and how our troops along with the Iraqi security forces are

making a difference.

He wrote: ``The highlight of my day, Election Day, was in south

Baghdad, where there were no polling stations in January 2005 and where

many Sunnis did not vote in October 2005. I watched as two affluent

local sheiks walked into the polling station together holding hands,

which is a huge sign of respect here. What was moving about this was

one sheik was Shia, the other Sunni. They told me how much they

appreciated what the United States had done for them and that they

could never repay us. The Sunni said, `We are tired of violence and the

fighting that destroys our people and our country; that they would work

to make the U.S. proud and that the sacrifices of American soldiers is

respected and appreciated.' ''

God bless our troops.