Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Iraqi people for

their third successful democratic election, the United States Armed

Services men and women, and the American people who support our

military and their families.

Mr. Speaker, democracy dealt terrorism another major blow on Thursday

with the successful free Iraqi election. This election was a crucial

victory for Iraq's new democracy and a defeat for terrorists who seek

to destroy that democracy. The Iraqi people have proven they long for

freedom and continue to fight the terrorists who wish to take their

freedom away, and with the continued help of American and coalition

forces, Congress and the President, Iraq will soon be a prosperous and

freedom-loving Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the valiant heroics of our military and the

sacrifices they have made to ensure our safety. They have fought

bravely and served honorably. No one can ever dispute the character of

our Armed Forces.

I salute the Iraqis for taking the next step toward a free nation and

our Armed Forces for helping them.