I agree, Mr. Chairman, with that concept that we

have a great many men and women who are serving nobly and have in the

history of this great country.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of that great philosopher, Dan Quisenberry

of the Kansas City Royals, he once said, ``I have seen the future. It

is just like the past, only longer.''

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am just an old history teacher who believes that

if we do not view our past, we fail to clearly view our future, and

that history illustrates there are several principles which have made

this a great country.

I would like to talk about two of those principles in relationship to

Iraq that I think are characteristics that have built this great

country. One is patience in the face of adversity, and the second is a

feeling of charity that Americans have always displayed to other

people.

Sometimes I think we live in a society that venerates speed.

Everything has to be done quickly. Our dialogue, our actions, sometimes

illustrate that impatience that we have.

I would like at times to go back to the days of Williams Jennings

Bryan when he would go along the Chautauqua circuit, and he could speak

for 2 or 2 1/2 hours to an audience, totally mesmerizing them.

I realize that some of the speeches that are given on this floor feel

as if they are going 2 or 2\1/2\ hours and we are not always that hot

in the mesmerizing category, but, nonetheless, it does have a

precedent.

In Berlin in 1948, when the Soviet Union decided it was going to push

us out of that city, we made a commitment that lasted over 15 months

that every day, every 3 minutes, another plane landed to defend that

particular city. It was our commitment, our patience and persistence in

the face of adversity.

Even in the 1960s, if you were a politician, the average sound bite,

the average response someone had on the media, was about 45 seconds,

which does not sound like much, but it is a long time if you think of

what you can explain in 45 seconds.

Today, in contrast, we live in a world where kids watching children's

programs will find that the visual will change every 10 seconds so they

do not lose interest; that we have a sit-com mentality that thinks that

all problems in the world have to be solved in 22 minutes plus

commercials; and we are frustrated when we do not quickly have results.

Instead of 45 seconds for a response, today in the media if you cannot

give a response in 8 seconds or less, which is the average, it just

does not happen.

All this contributes to a rush of judgment where we consider the

situations we are in today unique, and we fail to learn what I think is

important lessons from the past, and it is critical, in light of what

is happening in Iraq.

We have people that believe since we are trying to reform a country

and create a democracy in an area that has no tradition of that, that

is a task that is too daunting, and if we cannot transform that society

overnight, then it is a task that is too frustrating. And an enemy that

is comprised mostly of non-Iraqis are there to try and test our

patience in the face of adversity.

Now, what I would like to say is if you look at history, this

situation is not unique or unusual. After World War II, we went into

Japan, a country that had absolutely no tradition of democracy, and yet

by 1952 we had created or helped to create and establish a stable

democracy that is one of the major forces of the world today. But we

fail to remember that that took 7 years of effort to reach that point.

In Germany, at the same time, we created a new constitution that is

still in use, the ``Basic Law,'' the Federal Republic, which is a

strong republic, but we fail to remember that took us 4 years to reach

that particular point.

In the Philippines after the Spanish-American War, it was 6 years of

bloody violence before peace was brought and you could even start the

reconstruction of that island nation.

In Iraq, which we have been in about the same time as the Berlin

airlift used to break the Soviet determination to destroy that

beautiful city, we have established a constitution, a new government,

planned for elections, have a police force and an armed forces that are

increasing every day. That is a phenomenal success in a short period of

time. I guess we are doing things quickly today, but it is very

positive. And that success will only come if we still maintain that

value we have always had of patience in the face of adversity.

History says it is possible. History says that this country is best

suited to be successful, and I believe that we can, in part because of

the quality of our people.

If I could just very quickly talk about that other characteristic,

which is the charity that we have always had to other people, by

mentioning two people who have characteristics in common. One is they

have great hearts; the other is they happen to be Utahans. If I could

mention the name of Jared Kimber from Tremonton, a chief warrant

officer, who emulated a former Utahan, a neighbor of his, Gail

Halverson, known as the candy bomber in that Berlin airlift area of

time.

But Jared, who flies a Black Hawk for the 82nd medical company,

flying over the area, noticed that there were kids who just simply had

nothing with which they could play. One day he noticed a bunch of kids

trying to play soccer with a ball that deflated. So that day, he went

to the PX. He bought candy. He bought soccer balls. He bought Frisbees,

and as he was flying over, he distributed that from his helicopter.

Every day he did that.

So, by June, he was getting packages from home weighing 60 pounds of

stuff. A lady donated all of her stuffed bears for the kids of Iraq.

The 9-year-olds in his community organized, and they got 300 balls of

very different kinds so that the kids in Iraq could play with them, and

those became Jared's kids for whom he sacrificed out of the goodness

and the charity of his heart.

Another Utahan by the name of Paul Holton, a chief warrant officer in

the Utah National Guard, a man that was mentioned by the President in

his February National Prayer Breakfast is known now as Chief Wiggles

over there, taking on something called Operation Shoe Fly where

soldiers got shoes for needy families in Afghanistan. He recognized a

problem in Iraq and gave it a new name called Operation Give in which

clothing, dental supplies, toys and books are used for needy people.

In talking to students in Utah, Mr. Holton said, ``War is

challenging, sometimes a kill-or-be-killed kind of thing, and you are

in a strange place, and it is dangerous. But what is missing? Well, it

is the people.'' Holton said he was sick of hearing about all the bad

stuff when there are so many good things that are also happening in

Iraq.

He said the media makes it look like all Iraqis are hostile and want

U.S. troops out. He realized it was important not only to help them

establish freedom in their country but to reach out to them and address

them on a personal level. He showed students pictures of friendly Iraqi

children who benefited from this project as well as the families who

welcomed the soldiers with open arms.

They are just like us in many ways, but they have lots of needs.

Project Give or Operation Give helps let them know that we are not your

enemy, we are here to help you and to give you freedom.

With that, he established a warehouse in Baghdad in an effort to try

and help those who are from the poorest schools in the poorest segment.

In the spring of last year, he went to the high schools in Utah and

said, as you are cleaning out your lockers, instead of throwing away

all of your notebooks and supplies and pencils and crayons and

everything, put them in a box. He gathered them together to make part

of his trip to take them back to the poorest schools who, even though

they have schools, do not have the supplies they need.

This is Operation Give, and this is the quality of people that we

have working and leading and fighting and leading in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if it is against the rules if I mention

that people can find out about Operation Give if they look up

, because I certainly would

not want to break the rules in letting people know about

operationgive.org or chiefwiggles.com, so I hope if I say that, it is

in the rules.

But I also recognize that we have within Iraq a situation that is

going to be fraught with challenges, but we can meet those challenges

because of the quality of people that we have and the history of

success we have if we only keep our charity and our patience in the

face of adversity.

As Patrick Henry once said, ``I have but one lamp by which my feet

are guided, and that lamp is experience. I know of no way of judging

the future but by the past.'' We have a great past to guide us.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity of being here and sharing

this time.