Mr. Speaker, today I commend and congratulate the Iraqi

people on the occasion of the election which is going to be held there

tomorrow. This election represents not only the successful liberation

of the Iraqi people from decades of tyranny and oppression but it also

is a great leap forward in solidifying democratic institutions in Iraq.

Perhaps more than our Constitution, our flag or our national anthem,

it is our elections that best display the enduring success of our

American democracy. From the formation of political parties and

ideologies to spirited debates on critical issues, it is the symbolic

act of casting ballots that continues to make our democracy a beacon of

freedom and prosperity to the global community.

The Iraqi people will now have the opportunity to comprehend what

Americans have learned over two centuries, that nations are more stable

and more peace loving when a multitude of voices share in its

operation.

I am confident that democracy will continue to flourish as Iraqis

make their opinions heard, rally in support of their visions, and

experience for the first time the many liberties that Americans hold

dear.