Mr. Speaker, on the 1-year anniversary of the war in

Iraq, I rise to applaud the Iraqi civil leaders who last Monday on

March 8 signed the interim constitution, the Transitional

Administrative Law. With the adoption of this law, the governing

council has taken a historic step forward towards a democratic Iraq. It

took only 12 months, Mr. Speaker, to defeat Saddam Hussein and

transition to an interim constitution.

Now, my colleagues, it took 6 years for the first State in the Union,

Delaware, to ratify our Constitution, and several more years before the

original 13 finally ratified.

Iraq is moving at a much faster pace. One year ago, the naysayers

said we did not have enough forces in place to defeat Iraq's military.

Naysayers said we could never find Saddam Hussein; and naysayers

doubted that we could get Kurds, Shia, and Sunni Muslims to agree on

anything.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year later the naysayers are wrong.