Thank you, Congressman Israel.

I wanted to make a comment. You had mentioned our dinner engagement

between the Center Aisle Caucus and Iraq's ambassador to the United

States, and we had a wonderful dialogue. And I was struck by something

that the Iraqi ambassador had said to us. Of course we, often, in the

United States, talk about the tribalism that we see within Iraq, Sunni

and Shia and Kurd. And it is sort of hard for us to understand the

complexities of those tribal relationships and interactions. And the

Iraqi ambassador, obviously a very well educated man, made a comment

back to us about what he more or less termed ``American tribalism,'' I

think referring to Republicans and Democrats. It's hard for them to

understand how we operate. It was a point that I think was well

intended and well understood. And I think that we have to think about

that from time to time, that they see us, they see our bickering, too,

from where they sit. We had a lot of comments about their behavior.

Well, they have observed ours as well. And certainly our political

dynamics are very difficult for them to comprehend. And I appreciated

his insights.

I did want to make a few other comments about this recommendation,

these 79 recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. I think many of us on

both sides of the aisle realize that the beauty of this report maybe is

not necessarily in every one of the 79 recommendations, but the process

they adopted to make those recommendations. And I do want to give a

little bit of credit tonight to the two prime sponsors of the

legislation that was introduced just yesterday, that was Congressman

Mark Udall, a Democrat of Colorado, and on the Republican side, the

father of the Iraq Study Group report, legislatively, Frank Wolf, a

Republican of Virginia.

And I think they have really gone out of their way to secure probably

close to 50 cosponsors by now, fairly evenly divided between

Republicans and Democrats. And again, I just think there is so much in

this report that we can rally around and need to. I think we all agree,

when you look at those shared principles up there, from defeating al

Qaeda, I think every American, regardless of how they label themselves

politically, agree that the defeat of al Qaeda is a primary and

principal interest of all of us, whether in Iraq, or anywhere

throughout the world. Containing Iran. Another issue we all agree, that

the regime of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is a menace, a threat, and we all I

think agree that his potential acquisition of nuclear capability would

be a very destabilizing influence on the world and something that none

of us can tolerate.

And regional change; standing up for Iraqi Security Forces; secure

Iraq's borders; take care of our veterans; and support our Armed

Forces, I think those are great principles. I think this report, in

many respects, addresses these issues.

So with that, I just again wanted to share those thoughts with you

about the dinner with the Iraqi ambassador.

At this time I would like to yield back to Mr. Israel.