Mr. Speaker, a few short months ago, millions of Iraqis

risked their lives by simply casting a vote. This week, the bravery

demonstrated on that historic January day came to fruition as the

country's first freely elected government in over half a century was

sworn in. The new cabinet is representative of the various ethnic and

religious groups in Iraq and will be charged with the important task of

writing a permanent Iraqi constitution. This milestone is yet another

victory for the Iraqi people and delivers a further blow to the

terrorists and advances the cause of freedom worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate our continued admiration and support

of the Iraqi people, and I commend them for the courage and tenacity

they continue to demonstrate as they embrace freedom and democracy.