Mr. Speaker, I rise today in an effort to dispel

continuing myths which have been propagated with regard to the role of

Iraq in the larger war on terrorism. While many Democrat Members have

worked hard to promote these myths, it is time that we who know and

understand the truth come forward to fully explain it.

Let me be perfectly clear. The war against Iraq is a central

component in the global fight against terrorism. The Hussein regime's

support for terrorism, within and outside of its borders, its appetite

for the world's most dangerous weapons, and its openly declared

hostility to the United States were a combination that was a gathering

and growing danger to our country.

In light of the September 11 terrorist attacks, ending this regime

was central to the war on terrorism and central to ensuring that more

attacks on American soil, like the September 11 attacks and the 1993

World Trade Center bombing, never occur again.

The Hussein regime established significant and numerous ties with

terrorist organizations like al Qaeda for over a decade prior to

September 11, 2001. This included the provision of training, financing

and sanctuary. In fact, the Iraqi foreign minister admitted in March

2003 that Iraqi funds were sent to families of Palestinian suicide

bombers who attacked and killed innocent Israeli citizens, and also 12

Americans in Israel in 2003. Even the Clinton Administration agreed and

repeatedly asserted connections between al Qaeda and Iraq, and

explicitly said that Hussein posed a threat to the United States

itself.

By ending the Hussein regime, the United States has taken away yet

another incubator of terrorism. Terrorist groups benefited for years

from support of Saddam Hussein and his regime. Further, by acting

decisively in Iraq, the United States has sent very strong signals to

other nations that have been or could be terrorist sympathizers. Had

the United States not acted in Iraq, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi

would likely not have declared his weapons programs, submitted to

international inspections and voluntarily dismantled its programs. In

addition, it is very likely that United States action in Iraq caused

Iran to open its nuclear facilities for international inspection and

suspend its uranium enrichment activities.

The list goes on and on, from Syria to North Korea. We are seeing

changes in the way these nations deal with terrorism because of our

actions in Iraq.

Those who like to spread misconceptions and myths often point to the

fact that no weapons of mass destruction have yet been found in post-

war Iraq. They say the President and his administration deceived the

American people and the international community.

However, David Kay, our chief weapons inspector, has stated

repeatedly that it was prudent to attack Iraq, and that as the

inspection process continues, as it does, we will find that Iraq was

more dangerous than we actually understood at the time because the

regime was collapsing and Iraq was a country that had capabilities to

develop weapons of mass destruction that terrorist groups have sought

repeatedly.

Had the Hussein regime lost control completely, Iraq would have

become a breeding ground for international terrorism, much like

Afghanistan was under the Taliban, the only difference being that Iraq

had the wealth and the resources necessary to build weapons that could

have been directly threatening to the United States and our allies.

Further, not only the United States, but the French, British, Germans

and the United Nations all thought Hussein possessed weapons of mass

destruction before the United States intervened.

There is also the myth that the United States and our allies

intervened in Iraq solely based only evidence of weapons of mass

destruction. This is not true. Again, according to David Kay, Iraq

clearly was in violation of United Nations Resolution 1441. This

resolution required Iraq to come clean and report on all of its

activities.

To date, hundreds of cases have been found that show Iraq was engaged

in activities that were prohibited under that resolution and under the

initial resolution, 687.

Our case for war was and remains clear. The majority of the American

people understand that, the House of Representatives understood that

when this body agreed in the 107th Congress by passing H.J. Res. 114 by

a vote of 296 to 133, and our allies around the world understood that

and continue to share our resolve.

Clearly, there are those Democrat candidates who are using this

election year for partisan politics to cloud the truth. These tactics

will ultimately fail because we all understand that the United States

is safer today and our citizens are far less likely to be victims of

domestic terrorist attack because we have removed the Hussein regime

and are on the way to helping establish and ally in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to remember that who made this

security possible. The thousands of American sailors, soldiers and

airmen who drove the once powerful dictator to cower in a hole are owed

the praise of the entire Nation.

I would ask that all Americans take a moment to think about our

friends, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers who are serving proudly

in Iraq and around the world as part of the global war on terrorism.

They are ensuring our safety and working hard to make sure that another

day like September 11 never happens again. To Members of our armed

services, I say thank you. I would also remind them that no matter what

they hear to the contrary from Democrat politicos, their actions in

Iraq are justified and necessary.