I thank the gentleman.

I would like to restate some of the comments that we heard earlier

today from the new Prime Minister of Iraq and make some of the points

he said about how Iraq of today is different than what the Iraq of a

few years ago was.

Today, Saddam Hussein is in prison awaiting the end of his trial.

Zarqawi, the leader of the al Qaeda in Iraq, was eliminated by United

States troops. Iraqi security forces now number over 265,000 and are

participating in more than 90 percent of all security operations in the

country. Iraqi citizens are coming forth with tips about insurgents and

terrorist activities. More than 70 percent of Iraqi citizens voted in a

series of free and fair elections. Those figures are some that those of

us in this country could be envious of.

The progress in Iraq has not been without cost. This past week, a

citizen of the Fifth District of Virginia from Greene County, a little

community of Ruckersville, was killed by an IED. He was Corporal Adam

Fargo. He went to William Monroe High School. He volunteered for

service in the United States Army. He, like so many of us who have

volunteered on behalf of our country, has made the positive statistics

and the statements and the changes in Iraq possible. But it is not just

for the country of Iraq, it is for the United States of America.

We have indeed been fortunate in this country. Over the last 200 some

odd years since our Nation was founded, rarely have there been attacks

upon our homeland. Most of the fighting in World War II was abroad. All

of the fighting in World War I was abroad. In Korea, the fighting was

abroad. In Vietnam, the fighting was in Asia. And now, when we are in

the Middle East, back in the Gulf War of 1990, 1991, the fighting was

there. We liberated Kuwait. And now today, following September 11 when

we were hit on our own soil, in Afghanistan men and women in our Armed

Forces are standing up for America, and some have given their lives,

have given their all for our Nation.

Our Nation is a beacon on a hill. It is the land of the free and the

home of the brave because of those persons like Adam Fargo who have

stood by our country and made those of us who are in the United States

of America far safer and given us the ability to enjoy democracy and

the greatest freedom in the world.

We need to thank all of our troops, and particularly those for whom

we can never express enough gratitude for they have given their lives

so that all of us may be free and that our democracy can be a shining

light for the rest of the world.