

## Rothman Statement On Bush Announcement That Major Fighting In Iraq Is Over

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That Major Fighting In Iraq Is Over

Washington, DC – Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) tonight released the following statement in reaction to President Bush's speech announcing that the major fighting in Iraq is over.

"First and foremost, my heart and prayers remain with the brave men and women of our armed forces who are still in Iraq and the surrounding area. While the major fighting is over, our troops are still in a very dangerous environment as they work to keep the peace and give the Iraqi people the opportunity to create a free, secure, and just nation for themselves.

"Saddam Hussein's Iraq posed a clear and present threat to the security of the United States. Thanks to the superior might of our military, the threat of Saddam Hussein no longer exists. At the same time, the Iraqi people are also experiencing life without a brutal dictator. It is my hope and belief that they soon will live under the leadership of a democratic government – the complete opposite of the dictatorial regime they were forced to suffer under Saddam Hussein's 23 year reign.

"Now that large-scale military engagements with Saddam Hussein's forces are over, and as our country has pledged all along, I believe the United States has a responsibility to help rebuild Iraq. We also must ensure that order is restored so that the people of Iraq have the opportunity to create a free and civil society without concern that another brutal and oppressive regime could come into power during this time of political and economic turmoil.

"May God continue to bless our troops and our country."  
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