

WASHINGTON- "By remaining resolute and committed to nothing short of total removal of the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, President Bush clearly has demonstrated his steadfast leadership. All of America can be proud."

That was the reaction this morning by Congressman Spencer Bachus (R-Ala) to news of the capture of the Iraqi dictator.

Bachus continued: "President Bush's leadership, in the face of a raging torrent of nay-sayers at home and across the globe, brings to my mind a few words from a well known poem by Rudyard Kipling:

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you.....

"Kipling had it right," says Bachus. "So does President Bush".

Congressman Bachus added: "American forces in Iraq deserve thunderous applause for a job well done. Some critics never acknowledged or understood the magnitude of the challenge of finding Saddam and bringing him to justice – he had familiar territory, covert support and great wealth, yet he was found and captured within

months of the fall of Iraq – compare that to the fact that Eric Rudolph, restricted to a very small corner of North Carolina, and with only bare essentials — evaded expert FBI agents and an extensive search for over 5 years – finding one man who is running for his life is an exceptional feat."

Bachus concluded: "Coming as we prepare to celebrate the season in which 'Peace on Earth' is the central theme, this is good news for our troops, for America, and for all freedom loving people of the world."□

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"We in Alabama should again give thanks and appreciation for the sacrifice that our men and women in uniform are making, including our large contingency of reserve and national guard troops which are fighting the War on Terror.□ They have all made us proud."