Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank the gentleman from California for the time.

Mr. Speaker, whether or not some choose to acknowledge it, we are at

war with militant Islamists who seek our destruction. Yet some on the

other side of the aisle today announced that the war is lost in Iraq.

This comment shows little understanding of the ability and the

determination of our men and women in the Armed Forces.

Naysayers and those who doubt our Nation's ability to prevail over

evil have existed throughout the centuries, and it appears that there

are those who doubt the ability of this century's greatest generation

to defeat these Islamist militant extremists operating in Iraq.

Our mission is just. The soldier cannot be separated from his

mission. All I have to do is look to the inspiration of the Parsons

brothers from my congressional district, who are serving in Iraq. They

know that we must and indeed we can succeed.

Huber Parsons was with the 101st Airborne for two long Iraq

deployments. He is currently on his third deployment with the Army

Stryker Brigade. His twin brother, Bill, has served two tours in

Afghanistan and two tours in Iraq. And their little brother, Charlie,

is on his first deployment in Iraq. All three brothers are deployed in

Iraq right now.

I ask for the Parsons brothers and for all of our brave men and women

serving our Nation in Iraq that we not put them at increased risk with

these arbitrary, artificial deadlines.

My stepson, Douglas, and my daughter-in-law, Lindsay, both served in

Iraq as Marine fighter pilots, and tomorrow Lindsay will be deploying

to Afghanistan to continue her military service.

Arbitrary deadlines and the consequences of retreating and failure

are personal issues for me. Establishing arbitrary deadlines for

withdrawal of our forces before Iraq is stable and secure gives the

insurgents, as well as the Islamic extremist terrorists, a roadmap, a

how-to guide, on how to defeat the United States, our Iraqi partners

and other coalition forces in Iraq. Our troops understand this. Our

enemies understand this. Our allies understand it; we must as well.

We met with Egyptian leader Mubarak just 2 weeks ago in a bipartisan

congressional delegation, and this is what he told us: ``Withdrawing

from Iraq without creating stability will mean that the U.S. will

suffer and all of us in the region will suffer. I know how these

terrorists think,'' Mubarak said to us, ``and they will come after you

and then come after us.''

He continued by saying, ``The way to control Iran is for the U.S. to

succeed in stabilizing Iraq. Withdrawal of your forces in Iraq without

making Iraq stable will strengthen Iran and will cause you harm and

will cause all of us harm.''

Mr. Speaker, we either stand now against the Islamic militant

jihadists operating in Iraq or have these militants continue to

threaten our men and women fighting the forces that seek our

destruction. We cannot leave our troops serving in Iraq or anywhere

else vulnerable to the whims of armchair generals in Congress.

Support our troops. Reject this motion.