Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California

for the time.

At this difficult moment and in previous difficult moments in our

Nation's history, there have always been those ready to declare that

all was lost. Now we hear the voices of those proclaiming that the war

against Islamic extremists in Iraq is lost. They say they support the

troops, but the soldier cannot be separated from his mission.

When I consider the Parsons brothers from my congressional district,

I know that our country has immense resources of courage and

determination on which to draw. Huber Parsons was with the 101st

Airborne for two long deployments in Iraq, and is currently on his

third in Iraq with the Army Stryker Brigade. His twin, Bill, has served

two tours in Afghanistan and two tours in Iraq. Their little brother,

Charlie Parsons, is on his first deployment to Iraq. All three are

serving in Baghdad right now, all three proud graduates of West Point.

Given the sacrifices and bravery of the Parsons brothers and all of

the men and women serving our Nation in Iraq, we must not put them at

risk by mandating artificial deadlines for withdrawal and surrender.

The consequences for our troops is a personal one for me. My stepson

Doug and my daughter-in-law Lindsay both served in Iraq as marine

fighter pilots, and Lindsay is currently deployed in Afghanistan.

Last time I spoke on the floor, I said Lindsay was about to be

deployed. Well, she is there now, we are proud of her service. We are

proud of all of the men and women serving our Nation wearing our

Nation's uniform.

Imposing an artificial, arbitrary deadline for withdrawal of our

forces before Iraq is stable and secure will give the insurgents and

the Islamic terrorists a road map, a how-to guide on how to defeat the

U.S., our Iraqi partners and other coalition forces in Iraq.

Let's help the Parsons brothers. Let's help all of our troops. Vote

against the rule and against the conference report.