Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for the time and

really wanted to stand in support of the resolution and believe that

the resolution is a good one and that yesterday in this week's election

speaks volumes for all the work that we have accomplished.

I want to speak more importantly in memory and honor of Sergeant

Daniel Clay, who was killed when the marines were attacked in Fallujah

on December 1. His dad, Mr. Bud Clay, wrote the President a letter and

said that ``I am writing to tell you how proud and thankful we, his

parents and family, are of you and what you are trying to do to protect

us all. This was Dan's second tour in Iraq and he knew and said that

his being there was to protect us.

``I want to encourage you. I hear in your speeches about `staying the

course.' I also know that many'' of you are against this war and you

must get weary of fighting to try to do what is right. ``We and many

others are praying for you to see this through, as Lincoln said `that

these might not have died in vain.'''

I also have the actual letter that Daniel Clay wrote his family to be

opened in the event of his death, and I think it would be in his honor

to read it. This is of course by a very young man:

Daniel Clay is like so many others who have fought to make yesterday

possible, and yesterday is certainly not a conclusion but let us hope a

beginning of a new and significant chapter in Iraq where the military

sacrifices become smaller and the political engagement becomes greater.

One thing I have learned and loved about this House is the fact that

we are using politics as a substitute for civil war. Let us hope that

Iraq learns that lesson and that 200 years from now they will look back

at yesterday as one of their first most significant days in democracy.