Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

President Ronald Reagan said, ``We must realize that no arsenal or no

weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and

moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in

today's world do not have.''

This courage and this commitment are most clearly evident with our

men and women serving our Nation in Iraq. I see it in my stepson Doug

and my daughter-in-law Lindsay, who were Marine officers flying

missions in Iraq. Lindsay is now serving in Afghanistan. I see it in a

valued member of my committee staff, Matt Zweig, who just returned from

a 1-year tour of duty in Iraq. They believe in, and have fought for,

our mission. And their courage is palpable.

And I think of the Parsons brothers in my congressional district. You

have heard me speak about them before. All three of them were my West

Point nominees. I have known them since they were just young boys. Bill

Parsons is serving his second tour in Iraq. The youngest boy, Charlie,

is on his first deployment in Iraq. Huber Parsons is on his third

deployment to Iraq.

But today Huber, and his Stryker Brigade, was hit by a deeply buried

IED. The Stryker caught on fire, and Huber thought that he was going to

burn to death as the Stryker fully caught on fire. They were battling

small arms fire as they pulled him away. Their driver was killed. Huber

suffered a broken leg and a broken ankle, but his spirits are high. He

will soon be in a military hospital in Germany. But his commitment to

the mission, unwavering.

The father, in deep pain, wrote to me in an e-mail just a few hours

ago, and he said, ``We are but man and only know in part. But we know

that we have a great God, and we give Him praise in all things.'' He

said, ``Yes, even in this.''

He adds, ``Please pray for the families of those who have paid the

greatest price, for Huber's complete and speedy recovery . . . and for

the men whom they command and lead and for all the men and women who

serve our Nation.'' And he says, ``And pray for the wisdom of our

President, all policymakers, and all commanders.''

Yet we stand here today, Mr. Speaker, faced with a supplemental that

seeks to put these valiant efforts on an installment plan as they face

a brutal, ruthless enemy that seeks to kill Americans wherever they

are, as this supplemental ties the hands of our military commanders, as

it doles out funds in pieces, and yet it provides millions to the

United Nations and other international organizations through next

September. This cannot, this must not, stand.

For the Parsons brothers and for all who serve our Nation and risk

their lives every day, let's succeed and let's vote against this

supplemental.