Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady

for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, over the next 2 to 3 days, Members of Congress will come

to the well and they will talk about the Iraq resolution. They will

talk about troop levels and spending and funding and security,

training, strategy, a lot of different things in a lot of different

ways, with valid arguments on both sides. But I want to boil it down to

something simple, something that I understand, something that means

more to me than some of the things I mentioned.

There is a gentleman from my district, a Major Rick Simmons, a native

of Pickens, South Carolina, an Eagle Scout, a Citadel grad. From time

to time he has written me letters concerning different issues in Iraq.

He is in Fallujah right now.

He wrote me a letter dated 5 February, 2007. It is a rather lengthy

letter, but I want to read you one sentence from this letter:

``This is not Bush's war, it is my war, and it is the war of every

volunteer here because we know how high the stakes are for this

country.'' ``My war.'' That is what he says. ``This is my war.''

Rick, first to you and all your comrades over there, I say thank you

and God bless you. I pray for you every day. But I want to tell you

something, son; it is my war too. It is my war and my children's war

and my children's children's war.

This is our war, ladies and gentlemen. This is the greatest enemy

that we have ever faced in my lifetime, Mr.

Speaker. And when I raised my right hand and put my left hand on the

Bible, it was to support and defend the Constitution of the United

States against all enemies. And it was to protect the protectors, the

protectors of liberty, the protectors of democracy, the protectors of

freedom. And if it takes a troop surge and a funding stream that is

guaranteed, I will do everything I can to ensure the protectors have

everything they need.

There is only one way out of Iraq, Mr. Speaker. There is only one way

out of this war. Victory. Victory. I urge my colleagues to do the right

thing and I urge them to vote against this resolution.