I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, last month, a member of the majority leadership stated,

``This war is lost, and the surge has not accomplishing anything.'' He

further stated, ``We are going to pick up Senate seats as a result of

this war,'' and adding that he had been shown numbers that are

compelling and astounding.

I cannot imagine that there were many in either party who were not

shocked by these brazenly cynical words.

This past Saturday, I sat down with Phyllis and Huber Parsons,

constituents from my congressional district who have three sons serving

in Baghdad. They are pictured here in the poster behind me. They are

officers with the Army Stryker Brigade. They said to me that remarks

such as the ones that I just quoted by our congressional leaders ``made

them sick.'' Their sons, Charlie, Huber and Bill, are not bullets to be

used to hit a political target. And while some of my colleagues may not

agree with the administration's efforts to win the battle against

Islamic jihadists in Iraq, the Parsons brothers should not be abandoned

without ammunition to defend themselves.

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

Iraq. Lindsay is now in Afghanistan. They were not following the orders

of would-be generals here in Congress. They were serving their country

and their President, whom the Constitution clearly states is the

commander-in-chief.

Not one of us here in Congress can usurp that role. Nor can we fill

the role of General David Petraeus, who bears the enormous burden of

directing this war and who has said that our mission is just and

necessary.

These men and women of our Armed Forces, such as the Parsons brothers

and my stepson and daughter-in-law, understand their mission. They

understand that they are locked in a generational struggle with global

Islamic radicals who seek our destruction. If we declare that we have

been beaten in this phase of the struggle and then retreat, it will

only grow, it will follow us home, and it may never end.

Imposing a timetable for withdrawal of our forces and retreating over

the horizon, as some have suggested, will not insulate us from the

terrible strategic consequences that would result. This fighting will

spill into neighboring countries, threaten our allies and then spread

throughout the Middle East.

In addition to these frightening strategic consequences, if we

surrender the Iraqi nation to the terrorists, we would open the gates

to a potential humanitarian crisis of epic proportions, including mass

murder and displacements of thousands and thousands of innocent Iraqi

men, women and children that our retreat helped make possible.

Let me remind the advocates of defeat of the words of one of our

former presidents who battled against the legions of those who sought

to block his efforts to save democracy for this country and for the

world. He said, ``This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with

destiny. In this world of ours, there are some people, who seem to have

grown too weary to carry on the fight. I believe in my heart that only

our success can stir their ancient hope. They begin to know that here

in America we are waging a great and successful war. It is a war for

the survival of democracy.''

These are the words of Franklin Roosevelt, and I think were he here

today, I am confident that he would never give in to those who say that

we have lost and who demand that we retreat.

I ask my colleagues to uphold the President's veto and demand a clean

supplemental to support our troops in the field, to give Bill, Charlie

and Huber Parsons the resources they need to achieve victory in Iraq.