

From June 1999 until last year, I had the honor of serving as an officer in the US Army. Throughout those 7 years, I had the opportunity to serve in Iraq, with the soldiers on the front line; at Walter Reed Army Hospital, with those who have been seriously injured in the war on terrorism; and as a chaplain at Arlington National Cemetery, for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. With a father, 2 brothers and a brother-in-law currently serving on active duty, the war on terrorism is a very personal matter to me.

Earlier this week, Representative Chris Carney voted to impose an end-date for the war in Iraq. While I respect Mr. Carney's military service, it seems that he does not fully understand his role as a freshman congressman. Mr. Carney is no longer a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, and therefore, not in the position to make the battlefield decisions that the commanders on the ground are called upon to make. Not only is Mr. Carney no longer a Commander in the Navy, he is also not the Commander-in-Chief. A decision regarding a pull out date is determined by the President, in conjunction with the commanders on the ground – not by politicians.

Mr. Carney, you have two roles regarding war in Iraq: Declaring War & Funding. That's it. Our founding fathers created this system so that going to war could not be the decision of a single individual, yet the will to see the war to completion could not be decided by 435 politicians who are anxious to keep their jobs every 2 years.

Mr. Carney, you are neither a commander in the Navy, nor the Commander-in-Chief. Therefore, you were wrong to vote as you did.

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