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Readers give viewpoints about the war in Iraq**Pay attention to Bush actions**

By J.A. FINN | West Salem, Wis.

Is anyone thinking? Events impacting the future of our country and its citizens are occurring daily with only minimal interest. Our president and his administration have repeatedly been shown to lie, confuse and act so as to embarrass and endanger our country. He continues to describe the Iraqi war as a legitimate response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attack.

He disregards the fact that no Iraqis were part of the attack and that no weapons of mass destruction nor biological weapons nor ICBMs have ever been found. Our own American experts and inspectors appeared before Congress and bluntly stated that we made a horrible mistake.

The United Nations and several European governments told us the same thing before we invaded. The misconduct of this administration is mind-boggling. The lies and transgressions of this president and his vice president are truly impeachable.

Our children's children will be paying the financial cost of these years for decades to come. Families again live with the loss of loved ones. We're approaching 2,300 dead Americans and as many as 20,000 maimed and losing limbs. Who knows how many beheaded? Perhaps 20,000 to 35,000 Iraqis are dead. These numbers are all human beings.

Terrorists in Iraq? Yes, very obviously, now that we have invaded and occupied it. Our twisted leadership of this administration has truly unleashed and energized a worldwide terrorist activity that most agree will be with us for decades.

How many of us are sufficiently concerned to accept responsibility for what we have enabled? Meanwhile, we still don't demand appropriate correction: the impeachment of this administration.

Lessons learned from past wars

By THOMAS SMITH | Sparta, Wis.

During the past years, I have attended a variety of presentations on the general topic, "Lessons learned from the Vietnam War." I have read volumes of Congressional and presidential papers and biographies about the Vietnam War.

The major lesson learned in all wars in which the United States has been involved must be declared under the Constitution Article 1, Clause 11: "Only Congress can declare war." This is based on the facts that presidential resolutions, etc., lead to myriad interpretations of the law and a vagueness of accountability, and outright dishonesty occurs.

As a Vietnam combat veteran and proud and most humble 20-year active-duty serviceman, I request you look at lessons learned for the future of those now serving.

Very recently, both the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs stated before Congress that the military health care spending is now unsustainable and to have new weapons there must be a drastic increase in health fees from veterans, retirees and those presently on active duty who will need to use the VA and other medical systems.

Because I address these areas, I'm told that I do not support the military.

I do not just "blindly follow" the scripted lines of the administration today, and I want better support and total commitment for our military than our administration and Congress are providing today and in the future.

Send letters and packages to soldiers

By CHERYL ANDRIST | Elk Mound, Wis.

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For almost two years now, I have been sending letters and packages to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. I have met some wonderful people and discovered how much a simple letter from home can brighten their day and raise their morale.

I didn't know anyone in the military personally when I started this, so I used a Web site called Anysoldier.com to find contacts.

There were 300 soldiers listed on this Web site when I started, and now there are almost 4,000. The Web site was started by the Marty Horn family, whose son Brian was then serving in Iraq. It has grown tremendously in the past 2 1/2 years.

There have been more than 15,000 troop contacts on the site, serving 430,000 soldiers, Marines, airmen, sailors, and Coast Guard members.

This is a huge benefit to our servicemen and women who are giving so much for all of us every day. Anysoldier.com has also given monetary donations to provide soldiers with computers and other equipment, as well as support their individual "projects." One example is a soldier who helped install indoor plumbing in an Afghanistan orphanage, thanks to a \$1,000 donation from Anysoldier.

Anysoldier.com is in need of monetary donations to keep this valuable program going.

Please consider checking out the Web site and reading about the many accomplishments on behalf of our troops.

Muller wrong about Iraq

By PHILIP HOOKER | De Soto, Wis.

In his letter to the editor on Tuesday, Chris Muller, chairman of the La Crosse County Republican Party and president of choosevictory.org, wrote that leaving Iraq now would result in "Saddam-style mass graves." "Iraq would become a haven for terrorists." "The Middle East would descend into chaos." "Energy prices would escalate," and "economies would screech to a halt."

Say what? This is happening now, and it is getting worse, not better. The same excuse for continuing this war, that we cannot leave, was wrong when it was used for Vietnam, and is wrong now, because it is based on the assumption, proven to be wrong over the past three years, that this occupation is good for America and good for Iraq.

A total of 2,300 American soldiers have died so far in Iraq in three years of war. If the occupation of Iraq is to continue for eight more years as Vietnam did, 6,000 more soldiers could die. If the past is our guide, the reasons given for the continuing death, maiming, misery and poverty will continue to change as things get worse and more lies are exposed.

We must leave Iraq now.

Love it or leave it

By DORIS MATHEWS | La Crosse

God Bless America. If you don't like it, leave. Yes, President Bush has done some things wrong. You never made any mistakes, right? Wonderful, you can stay.

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