Endorsement letters: Ending war in Iraq wins a vote for Obama

By: Joe Hamilton

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Security forces inspect the scene of a car bomb attack in Basra, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, Sept. 9, 2012. In violence, which struck at least 10 cities across the nation, insurgents killed at least 39 people.

From August 2006 through October 2007 -- 15 consecutive months -- the national Gallup Poll indicated that the war in Iraq was the No. 1 issue concerning the U.S. Public opinion has moved on to other worries now, but the gradual end of the Iraq war is truly something to be grateful for.

Some people -- supporters and detractors of President Barack Obama alike -- sometimes say that the president has not delivered on the hope and change promised during the 2008 campaign. But I'd maintain that if the only thing that Barack Obama accomplished in foreign policy during his entire time in office was the end of U.S. military involvement in Iraq, then that alone makes his presidency significant, historic and well worth voting for.

I won't rehash the arguments against the Iraq war here or repeat the many distortions of the Bush Administration that led to that $800 billion fiasco. If people don't have strong views on the war by now, they probably never will. But it should be known that Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's foreign policy team is stacked with Iraq war advocates.

Christopher Preble, a foreign policy expert at the Cato Institute, a conservative-leaning libertarian think tank with no love lost for Obama, has said, "Romney's likely to be in the mold of George W. Bush when it comes to foreign policy if he were elected," and "I can't name a single Romney foreign policy adviser who believes the Iraq War was a mistake."

If you believe sending U.S. troops into Iraq was a mistake, do our overtaxed U.S. military a favor and support Obama on Election Day.

We have only that one chance to prove that we as Americans learned something from the Iraq war. Don't vote for those who learned nothing.