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PENCE CALLS END OF COMBAT PHASE HUGE WIN FOR FREEDOM

Washington, May 1, 2003 - Washington, D.C.— Congressman Mike Pence made the following remarks today regarding President Bush's speech tonight from the USS Abraham Lincoln at 9 p.m. eastern:

"Under President Bush's leadership, the Taliban and Saddam Hussein have been removed from power to make way for peace and stability in Afghanistan and Iraq. This is a remarkable accomplishment that few thought possible.

"Today the world is a safer place and I commend our military leaders who devised the plan and our brave men and women who fought so bravely to make it so."

Rep. Pence and his wife Karen just returned from a trip to visit the troops with House Speaker Dennis Hastert. The Congressional delegation visited Ramstein Air Force Base, where they visited soldiers wounded in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. They also visited the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean Sea as well as U.S. B-52 pilots at Fairford Air Force Base in England.

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