

"Providing for the common defense is the first objective of the federal government and elected officials have sworn to uphold the defense of the United States under the Constitution. We renew the American dream by rekindling the fires of men, material and morale that warm the warriors who stand on liberty's ramparts, protecting our families."

--Congressman Mike Pence

One of my top priorities in Congress is to strengthen national security and defense by giving the commander in chief of the United States Armed Forces all the tools needed to fight and win the War on Terror.

I was in the Capitol on that fateful day in 2001. I saw the evil of our enemies written in the smoke rising above the Pentagon. Ten years removed from the attacks of September 11, 2001, it is all too clear that the United States remains a nation at war. Our troops continue to face dangers in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Homeland Security and intelligence experts have concluded that threats against the United States continue to evolve in attempts to evade our security efforts.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been downrange to see our troops in Iraq six times and in Afghanistan three times. Each time, I came home even more impressed by the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Our brave men and women in uniform deserve our nation's deepest gratitude. With great valor, they manned the front lines of the War on Terror and have given so much to keep the United States free from harm. We commemorate those American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who have made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. Their names will forever be enshrined on the hearts of the people of the United States. For their families, we pray that God comforts them with the knowledge that the sacrifice they endured was not in vain.

We also commend the many more who suffered life-altering injuries in the course of their courageous service. All of the men and women who served under the American flag have made us safer, and they have made us proud.

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