U.S. Congressman Mike Pence released the following statement today as the United States military ends combat operations in Iraq:

**“The brave men and women of the U.S. military deserve our honor and gratitude. Hundreds of thousands of troops have distinguished themselves with heroic service in Iraq. We celebrate with those returning home to loved ones and we continue to pray for those who remain in Iraq. We also remember the brave troops who gave the ultimate sacrifice while fighting in the War on Terror in Iraq.**

**“Our troops, working with Iraqi forces, achieved security that has paved the way for Iraq to build a democracy. That progress was due in large part to our military’s effective execution of the surge strategy. We look forward to a continued partnership with the people and government of Iraq.”**