Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my support for H. Res.

557.

As I have done since the beginning of this war, I continue to focus

my attention on the fine men and women of the Armed Forces that have

fought so valiantly in Iraq. In particular I am pleased to recognize

the contributions of the National Guard and Reserve.

The citizen soldiers of the Guard and Reserve left behind their

families and careers to serve their country. We must continue to

recognize those family members and employers who have also sacrificed

over the last year while their loved ones served in harm's way

thousands of miles away.

Today, three units from the Connecticut National Guard continue to

serve in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, while one unit has

returned and yet another prepares to deploy. I had the unique

opportunity to meet with many of these fine soldiers in theater during

my October trip to Iraq last year. Their morale and conviction for the

mission remain as strong today as it was when they deployed.

We must remember that work here in Congress remains to insure that

both active duty soldiers and our Guard and Reserve units continue to

get the support they need. We must continue to see an increase in the

flow of up-armored HMMWVs and up-armor kits and body armor to theater.

We must also make sure the troops know that the American people support

their efforts in securing a world free from the threat of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I was not able to make the roll call vote for H. Res.

557, but had I been in attendance I ask that the Record reflect that I

would have voted ``yea,'' joining with my colleagues on both sides of

the aisle in commending the members of the United States Armed Forces

and Coalition forces for liberating Iraq. I am grateful for their

valiant service.