Mr. Speaker, today marks a solemn milestone: 2,000

American military personnel have now given their lives fighting in

Iraq; 244 Americans have also fallen in Afghanistan. We owe these brave

men and women and their families a debt of gratitude that can never be

fully repaid.

In July of this year, I led a bipartisan group of 21 Members of

Congress in reading the names of the fallen into the Congressional

Record over a 2-week period of time. Tonight I continue this tribute by

reading the names of some of those who have fallen most recently.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of President Abraham Lincoln, who wrote to

the mother of five fallen soldiers,

I would also like to thank the brave men and women who continue to

serve our Nation in both Iraq and Afghanistan and throughout the world

and serve with distinction. Our thoughts and prayers and gratitude are

with you and your families at this time until you return home.

To the families whose names I have read here tonight and other

nights, if I have mispronounced your names, my apology. I want you to

know your family member, your son and your daughter, your brothers and

sisters, your fathers and mothers, that we only meant to put your name

in the Congressional Record and to always be part of our country and

our community.

God bless you.