



May 28, 2010

Dear Constituent,

Our nation owes an incredible debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid to all the brave men and women who have served our nation by helping to promote peace, stability, and democracy worldwide. Day in and day out, in the streets of Baghdad, in the countryside of Afghanistan, and in hotspots around the globe, American servicemembers serve our country faithfully and honorably.

During the War on Terror, nearly 5,500 men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice for us by defending our nation and ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. One of these fallen servicemembers includes Lance Cpl. Abraham "Abe" Simpson, a Chino resident and member of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills. Abe's ultimate sacrifice has touched me personally and I will never forget him. Prior to joining the Marine Corps, I had the honor to present Abe an American flag that had been flown over the Capitol at his Eagle Scout award ceremony. In the beginning of his senior year of high school, Abe joined the Marines, something he had long wanted to do. Though just 19, Abe knew what he wanted, where he was going, and what his mission was while serving in Iraq. On November 9, 2004, Abe gave his life for his fellow Americans in the bloody battle of Fallujah.

At Abe's funeral, I spoke to his father, Jim, and told him that I had voted to send his son to Iraq. His father quickly and firmly replied that it was the right vote. Abe is a true American hero and has left a lasting image with those he came to know, including myself. He served his country well and others followed his courageous example. Following his death, Abe's cousin, Sgt. Jonathan Simpson, wanted to honor his legacy by fighting on the front lines. In 2006, Jonathan was killed in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. The selfless sacrifices of both Abe and Jonathan have kept our nation free and Americans safe.

In addition to Abe, twenty of the 42nd Congressional District's own sons and daughters have given their lives in the War on Terror. These men and women include Staff Sgt. Faoa L. Apineru, Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Bolor, Pvt. Michael P. Bridges, Seaman Pablito Pena Briones, Lance Cpl. Rick J. Centanni, Sgt. Major Robert J. Cottle, Maj. Ricardo A. Crocker, Pfc. Joseph Cruz, Lance Cpl. Salvador Guerrero, Staff Sgt. William M. Harrell, Pfc. Raymond L. Henry, Pfc. Jang H. Kim, Pfc. Samuel S. Lee, Lance Cpl. Hugo R. Lopez, Cpl. Douglas Jose Marencoreyes, Maj. Megan L. McClung, Spc. Marcos O. Nolasco, Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Santee, Sgt. Quoc B. Tran, and Spc. Jonathan D. Welch. These servicemembers are heroes and we honor their legacy.

As our troops are giving their best to America, we must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our nations' veterans and their families by delivering on our responsibilities. Since being elected to Congress, I have used my voice and my vote in Congress to support our nation's veterans. Although Congress has passed legislation to deliver on promises to our nation's veterans, it pales in comparison to what they have done for us. Throughout our country's history, our military has demonstrated their love for us by laying down their lives on our behalf. Congress has a duty to deliver on promises made to our nation's veterans and active duty military personnel—they deserve no less.

As we celebrate Memorial Day this Monday, let us express our heartfelt gratitude and support to all of America's veterans and let us also remember the price they have paid to keep this nation safe. All Americans, and many hundreds of millions of people around the world, owe their freedom to the courage, service, and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

Sincerely,

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress

The Capitol Connection Newsletter is published at the end of every week in which Congress is in session. As Congress is scheduled to adjourn for the Memorial Day recess, the next edition will appear on June 11, 2010. Please send correspondence to CapitolConnectionNewsletter@mail.house.gov with your name and residential address. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter send an email to CapitolConnectionNewsletter@mail.house.gov or call (202) 225-3201.