

Mahoney Delivers House Floor Statement on Iraq

(March 21, 2007)

(Washington, D.C) - Congressman Tim Mahoney today spoke on the House Floor urging his colleagues to pass the Supporting our Troops and Veterans' Health Care Act (FY 07 Supplemental Appropriations Bill). The bill adds \$1 billion to the Department of Defense to fight terrorism in Afghanistan; \$2.8 billion for Defense Department Healthcare (\$1.7 billion above the President's request); \$1.7 billion for Veterans Health Care (including \$550 million to address maintenance backlog at VA health care facilities to prevent situations similar to those at Walter Reed Army Medical Center); and includes \$1.25 billion for port, transit, and border security.

The bill provides U.S. forces in the field the resources they need, requires the DOD to obey its own standards for troop readiness, improves health care for returning service members and veterans, sets benchmarks to hold the Iraqi Government accountable for maintaining its own security, and directs more resources to fighting the War on Terror in Afghanistan.

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Congressman Mahoney

Remarks on House Floor

March 21, 2007

Thank you Madam Speaker.

I rise today on behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

When I ran for Congress, I promised to stand up for our veterans, and our men and women in uniform. I promised I would do everything in my power to fight and win the War on Terror.

Poor political leadership and gross mismanagement has put America in the middle of an increasingly violent religious civil war.

Our troops completed their mission. They removed a brutal dictator and through \$400 billion of our hard earned money and our brave men and woman's blood sweat and tears, we gave the Iraqi people the hope of a better life through

democracy.

This week, I am going to vote to give the President the money he requested. But for the first time, we have the opportunity to hold him accountable to the American people for the promises he made to us.

This bill gives the President the mandate to keep troops in Iraq for as long as it takes to destroy the terrorists.

It sets requirements for troop readiness, provides money to rebuild our military and gets our troops and veterans the resources and help they need.

Mr. President, no more blank checks. Congress and the American people for the first time in over 5 years are holding you to your word.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Supporting our Troops and Veterans' Health Care Act

I yield back the balance of my time.

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