

Mahoney Stunned By DoD Indifference; Calls on Gates to Deliver Children's Greetings to Soldiers

(December 13, 2007)

(Washington D.C.) Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) called on Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to guarantee the delivery of hundreds of thousands of holiday cards and letters that Americans have sent to wounded soldiers.

Today the Associated Press reported that, "Hundreds of thousands of holiday cards and letters thanking wounded American troops for their sacrifice and wishing them well never reach their destination. They are returned to sender or thrown away unopened."

Reacting to this news, Congressman Mahoney wrote, "I am stunned to learn that the Department of Defense is not doing everything possible to guarantee delivery of these important greetings. While I understand your department may have security concerns, I can not underscore the importance of letting the American people directly communicate their support for our brave men and women serving in uniform."

Text of Congressman Mahoney's letter to Secretary Gates:

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

The Associated Press reported today that, "Hundreds of thousands of holiday cards and letters thanking wounded American troops for their sacrifice and wishing them well never reach their destination. They are returned to sender or thrown away unopened."

If true, I am stunned to learn that the Department of Defense is not doing everything possible to guarantee delivery of

these important greetings. While I understand your department may have security concerns, I can not underscore the importance of letting the American people directly communicate their support for our brave men and women serving in uniform. Having worked with a third grade class in my district to write get well cards for a wounded Iraqi soldier from their hometown, I have seen first hand how those kids' wishes for his recovery buoyed his spirits in the face of dozens of reconstructive surgeries.

I am counting on you to make sure common sense prevails in this matter. The welfare of our troops demands that they be allowed to hear the love and support of the American people. Let me know if and how Congress can assist in getting these messages delivered this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Tim Mahoney

Member of Congress

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