

Mahoney Visits Iraq Soldier at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

(February 12th, 2007)

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) visited Sgt. Luke Shirley at Walter Reed Army Medical Center yesterday. Sgt. Luke Shirley and his brother, Specialist Joshua Shirley, residents of LaBelle, Florida, were stationed in Iraq when Sgt. Luke Shirley was severely injured by a land mine in December. After receiving orders to return to Iraq, Joshua petitioned to stay in the United States in order to help his brother, Luke, recover. Congressman Mahoney, local officials, and the Shirley family assisted Joshua's petition efforts.

Last week, the Department of the Army announced that Specialist Joshua Shirley will be assigned to a post in the greater Washington, D.C. area in April. Until then, he will be permitted to stay by his brother's side at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"The Shirley brothers are true American Heroes. These brave young men put their lives on the line to serve our country. America owes them a debt of gratitude. Sgt. Luke Shirley's optimism and courage are truly inspiring," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

Specialist Joshua Shirley was Congressman Mahoney's guest at the President's State of the Union Address last month. Mahoney's visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center yesterday was the Congressman's first meeting with Joshua's brother, Luke.

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