

## (November 7, 2005) In Honor of Veterans Day

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Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the dedicated men and women who have served, and those who continue to serve and protect this great nation.

Veterans Day is a day of remembrance and rededication. We pause to remember the noble service and great sacrifices of those who have worn our nation's uniform. And we rededicate ourselves, in the words of President Lincoln, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle."

As our nation is at war, we look to the brave mothers, fathers, sons and daughters that have answered the call to defend us. With courage and character, American soldiers continue to put themselves on the line to defend our freedom, and so many have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind. As more veterans return home from the battlefield, let us honor the service of all veterans, young and old, that have stood guard and fought so bravely to ensure our freedom. Our nation must provide sufficient access to healthcare, adequate benefits, and the supplemental resources our veterans were promised and so dearly need. We owe our heroes no less.

Today and every day, the prayers of the American people are with those who wear our country's uniform. They serve a great cause and they follow a great tradition, handed down to them by America's greatest heroes, our veterans. Veterans from every era are the finest of citizens. We owe them the life we know today. They command the respect of the American people, and they have our everlasting gratitude.

May God bless our troops. May God bless our veterans and their families. And may God bless the United States of America