

March 18, 2003

**Honor the families of the men and women of
our Armed Forces**

*Become an original co-sponsor of a Resolution commemorating the
Blue Star Banner and the Gold Star*



Dear Colleague:

It is fair to say that nobody wants to go to war and many Americans hope and pray for peace. However, with the prospect of war with Iraq before us and the ongoing conflict with terrorism, it is a fitting time to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families.

This Wednesday, I will introduce a Resolution honoring the families of our service men and women by encouraging the display of the Blue Star Banner, which symbolizes their commitment to our nation. Attached, you will find the language of the resolution. It recognizes that military service during wartime requires dedication and sacrifice by both the member of the Armed Forces and by the family that awaits their safe return.

Since 1917, the Blue Star Banner has shown that a family which displays it has an immediate family member on active duty. The symbolism of the Gold Star is far more poignant, as it shows that the family has lost a loved one in the active service of our country.

I invite you to join me in honoring these brave men and women and their families by becoming an original co-sponsor of this Resolution. Please contact Stacey Wood of my staff at 5-3361 to become a co-sponsor.

Sincerely,

John Shadegg
Member of Congress