

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 26, 2002

**SKELTON, STUMP, HUNTER AND LARSON INTRODUCE RESOLUTION CALLING ON AMERICANS TO WRITE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN EVERY SEPTEMBER 11**

***Letters Would Express Appreciation to Members of the Armed Services***

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Congressmen Ike Skelton (MO-04), Bob Stump (AZ-03), Duncan Hunter (CA-52), and John Larson (CT-01) yesterday introduced H.Con.Res. 450 calling on Americans to honor Patriot's Day (September 11) each year by writing to the men and women serving in the Armed Forces in appreciation of their service to the nation and as a remembrance to those who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Rep. Stump serves as the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Skelton is the Ranking Member and Reps. Hunter and Larson are also members of the committee. The members see the period between September 11 and November 11 (Armistice Day) as the most appropriate time for Americans to participate in such an effort.

Skelton stated: "Congress has named September 11 Patriot's Day, a time to reflect, remember and memorialize those who died on that day. It should also be a time when we write to our servicemen and women at home and abroad who are actively protecting the freedoms we enjoy so that those who gave their lives will not have done so in vain. It is a day to thank them for their continued bravery and dedication."

Stump stated: "Patriot's Day will be a day of remembrance to those who died in the terrorist attacks on the nation, and a day of thanksgiving and appreciation for those who continue the fight for our freedoms. "

Hunter, who recently traveled to Afghanistan to visit our troops, stated: "The importance of a letter to a member of the Armed Forces is immeasurable to their morale and is evidence that people back home care."

Larson stated: "The goal of this resolution is to encourage citizens, especially students, to become engaged in writing letters and emails to members of our military to honor their service and sacrifice."

The resolution is meant to show gratitude to America's troops in a proactive, bipartisan matter.

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