

development, and we stand ready with our national community to assist you in generating support for its expeditious passage in the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. State Department may object to some of the language in this Resolution, since over time the State Department has ramped up its requirements related to Croatia's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This Department's requirement for support of Croatia's entry into NATO has actually morphed from 'complete cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, in the pursuit of the remaining indictee' to 'the capture and delivery of the remaining indictee to The Hague'. The State Department holds to this position in spite of the fact that the ICTY Chief Prosecutor claims that the remaining indictee is hiding in an Italian monastery protected by the Vatican. The ICTY Chief Prosecutor has further asserted that Croatia is now completely cooperating with the ICTY. Furthermore, the new government of Prime Minister Ivo Sanader has affirmed the Government of Croatia's commitment to cooperate fully and continue to take all necessary steps to locate and transfer the remaining indictee to the ICTY. After complying with 626 demands of the ICTY, the people of the free and democratic Republic of Croatia deserve better treatment from the United States and they have certainly earned our strong support expressed so well in this Resolution.

We agree with the view that stability in South Central Europe is of a very high priority, and that Croatia has become a valuable, constructive partner in this delicate region. Given the potential for future regional conflicts, NATO should want to take advantage of the greater contribution that Croatia would make toward peace and stability as a full member of NATO. As you know, Montenegro may wish to break from Serbia in the future, and Kosovo is considering its own independence. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina has yet to be reconstituted into a nation-state that can equitably govern its three ethnic constituencies. And, unfortunately, The Serbian Radical Party—using Republika Srpska as a foothold—openly promulgates activities oriented towards the creation of a Greater Serbia, which may also include current parts of Croatia. These potentially explosive situations require the stability that a NATO presence in Croatia will provide.

I am taking the liberty of providing a copy of this letter to your Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Representative Robert Wexler, and to the Co-Chairs of the Croatian Caucus, Representatives George Radanovich and Peter Visclosky, who we believe will be helpful on this matter. If I may provide anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or our NFCA Government Relations Director, Mr. Joseph Foley. Thank you again for your important continued support for Croatia's NATO membership.

Sincerely,

EDWARD A. ANDRUS,
President.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, CORRECTION: I intended to vote against the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement and attempted to do so. Upon inquiring with the clerk why my

vote was recorded as a "yes" instead of a "no", the clerk checked the electronic record and discovered that I had pressed the "no" button several times on the preceding vote. At no time did I intend to cast a "yes" vote on the agreement. To date, I have voted against every trade agreement that has come up while I have been in Congress, including the agreement with Bahrain.

TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD— RETURNING FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a National Guard unit is coming back home to Texas. On Saturday, December 17, 2005, the 1st Battalion 133rd Field Artillery will be welcomed back home to the Beaumont Armory, in Beaumont, Texas after bravely serving the past year in Iraq. In August 2004 the Texas Army National Guard deployed the 56th Brigade Combat Team of the 36th Infantry Division, to go to Iraq. They trained for four months in Ft. Hood, and got to Iraq in December of 2004.

The 133rd Field Artillery has a long-standing history. This was the same famous Texas Army National Guard Division that landed on the beaches of Anzio, Italy during WWII, liberated Rome and freed hostages in Dachau, Germany.

They continued this long-standing tradition in Iraq where they conducted offensive operations, deny and destroy operations, combat logistic patrols and civil military affairs operations. They built schools, hospitals, and won the hearts of the Iraqis they met along the way.

In January, I had the privilege of going to Iraq to witness the first elections. I met with our military and saw firsthand their accomplishments in their fight for Iraqi freedom.

Mr. Speaker, freedom has a price. Our troops are paying that sacrificial price for the Iraqi people and world freedom. Unfortunately, the 133rd lost 6 members during their fight for freedom and I would like to extend my prayers and our condolences to their family and friends. They were making a difference in the world when they gave their life. Their bravery, dedication and patriotism will never be forgotten.

President John Kennedy once said, "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission." We have chosen the right path, the hard path, the freedom path. We will persevere with the freedom loving people of Iraq until the journey down this path is successfully completed.

The 133rd operated in the Sunni Triangle, Tikrit, Tillal, on the Jordanian Border and in Baghdad and it is my pleasure to welcome them back to Beaumont, Texas today. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the members of the 133rd and all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. They have honored us with their commitment to Texas and the Nation, and the citizens of America and Iraq owe them a debt of gratitude. They are America's best. They are the sons and daughters of liberty, they are freedom fighters. They make us proud.

I join the citizens of Texas's 2nd Congressional District in paying the utmost respect to the 1st Battalion 133rd Field Artillery. Through their service, Iraq is a free democracy, and America remains the land of the free and the home of the brave. That's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT TUCKER, THE SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT MANAGER OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, WHO IS RETIRING AFTER 13 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Scott Tucker, District Manager of the San Francisco District of the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. Tucker has served the San Francisco/Bay Area with distinction for thirteen years. On January 1, 2006, Mr. Tucker will retire from his post as District Manager.

Under Mr. Tucker's supervision, the San Francisco postal district has been recognized continually as having one of the best on-time mail services of any metropolitan area in the nation. When one considers that Mr. Tucker oversees a workforce of 10,400 employees who are responsible for delivery of nearly 10 million pieces of mail daily, to 3 million customers in San Francisco, the Peninsula and throughout Northwest California from Sunnyvale to the Oregon border—the success of his district has been no simple feat.

Mr. Speaker, Scott Tucker began his postal career in 1968 as a letter carrier in Hanford, California. During his career with the Postal Service, he has held a succession of managerial positions in postal operations, ascending to his current post in 1992. Throughout his career, Scott Tucker has been recognized by a multitude of community organizations for his outstanding service.

As lead executive for the San Francisco postal district, Mr. Tucker worked aggressively to heighten awareness of the multicultural groups within the District. Establishing diversity leadership advisory councils including a Women's Council, African American Council, Asian American/Pacific Islander Council and Hispanic Council, Scott Tucker was named the recipient of a diversity leadership achievement award presented by the Bay Area Federal Executive Board, for these efforts.

However, Mr. Speaker, Scott Tucker's accolades do not end here. Additionally, he was recognized by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council for promoting Diversity/Equal Employment Opportunity in the workforce. He also earned the Excellence in Public Service Award from the Chinese American Voters Education Committee for his community service.

Mr. Tucker's fine work reached overseas to military service personnel stationed abroad earning him honors by the Joint Military Postal Activity-Pacific. The California National Guard also recognized Mr. Tucker for his support of our troops in Iraq, some of whom are postal employees with reserve status that were called to duty.

Mr. Speaker, under Mr. Tucker's leadership, the San Francisco District received the "Order