

Statement on the End of the Iraq War

Written by Mike Honda
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In Congress, we must ensure that Iraq veterans find employment when they return to civilian life. No one who fought for America overseas should have to fight for a job when they come home.

We must make veterans' health care a legislative priority as well. We must build on the progress the Democratically-led Congress made to strengthen veteran's health care by providing the largest single increase in funding in the history of the Veterans Administration. No one who fought for America overseas should have to fight for the care they need when they come home.

We must also give credit to President Obama, who has insisted on keeping his national security promises – ending our military presence in Iraq, taking the fight to al Qaeda and bringing Osama bin Laden to justice.

I staunchly opposed and voted against the Iraq War from the beginning. My constituents have long been tired of this war. They understand that our troops were put in harm's way for too long. They understand that our troops – even National Guard units – were subjected to multiple, consecutive deployments and were initially sent into the war zone without adequate vehicles and body armor. They understand that we spent an inordinate sum of tax dollars fighting a war that should have never been waged. They understand that our economy suffered as a result of our resources being poured into this war. With the end of the Iraq War, it's time to invest in the American people – creating jobs, strengthening the middle class, and eradicating economic inequality in America.

Under President Obama's leadership, we have reached a critical milestone for America with the end of the Iraq War.

Now, we must work with Iraq as it stabilizes and becomes a completely independent government. Most importantly, we must now end the war in Afghanistan, reignite economic opportunity here at home and build an American future worthy of our veterans' sacrifice.