

Congressman Richard W. Pombo
11th District, California
2411 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-1947
www.pombo.house.gov

Support Our Troops

Thousands of Americans are asking what they can do to show their **support for servicemembers**, especially those serving overseas in this time of potential war. Below are Web sites for several organizations that are sponsoring programs for members of the Armed Forces overseas. While it would be inappropriate for the Department to endorse any specifically, servicemembers do value and appreciate such expressions of support:

Donate a calling card to help keep servicemembers in touch with their families at Operation Uplink at <http://www.operationuplink.org/>

Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/> or www.OperationDearAbby.net

Sign a virtual thank you card at the Defend America Web site at <http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html>

Make a donation to one of the military relief societies:

Army Emergency Relief at <http://www.aerhq.org/>

Navy/Marine Relief Society at <http://www.nmcrs.org/>

Air Force Aid Society at <http://www.afas.org/>

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance at <http://www.cgmahq.org/>

Donate to "Operation USO Care Package" at <http://www.usometrodc.org/care.html>

Support the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services at <http://www.redcross.org/services/afes/>

Volunteer at a VA Hospital to honor veterans who bore the lamp of freedom in past conflicts.

Support families whose loved ones are being treated at military and VA hospitals through a donation to the Fisher House at <http://www.fisherhouse.org>.

Reach out to military families in your community, especially those with a loved one overseas. The support and generosity of the American people has touched the lives of many servicemembers, over 300,000 of whom are deployed overseas.

Blue Star Service Banners

· The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front lines. It quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service.

· On Sept. 24, 1917, an Ohio congressman read the following into the Congressional Record: "...The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the governor of Ohio have adopted this service flag. The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother - their children."

· During World War II, the Department of War issued specifications on the manufacture of the banner as well as guidelines indicating when, and by whom, the Service flag could be flown or the Service Lapel button could be worn.

· The Blue Star Service Banner is an 8 by 16-inch white field with a blue star(s) sewn onto a red banner.

· Today, Blue Star Service Banners are displayed by families who have a loved one serving in the armed forces, including activated members of the National Guard and Reserves, whether the family member is a son, daughter, brother, sister, wife, husband, cousin, grandchild, etc. The banner displayed in the front window of a home, shows a family's pride in their loved one serving in the military, and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands much. (cont. on page 2)

Quotes

"We can stand here like the French, or we can do something about it."

--- Marge Simpson from *The Simpsons Show*

"The only time France wants us to go to war is when the German Army is sitting in Paris sipping coffee." --- Regis Philbin

"You know why the French don't want to bomb Saddam Hussein? Because he hates America, he loves mistresses and wears a beret. He IS French, people." --Conan O'Brien

"I don't know why people are surprised that France won't help us get Saddam out of Iraq. After all, France wouldn't help us get the Germans out of France!" ---Jay Leno

"The last time the French asked for 'more proof' it came marching into Paris under a German flag." --David Letterman

Freedom Fries

The boycott on French products such as wines, champagnes, and fine cheeses are already affecting the French. Fromage.com, a French cheese distributor, reported that its sales to the United States have gone down 15 percent in the past two weeks. But some Americans may also hesitate to purchase those tasty treats with the wrong name. Well that's where the clever American spirit comes into play. Freedom Fries sound much more appealing, no?

From the HRC Boarding Pass
www.gop.gov

Support Our Troops cont.

National Guard and Reserve Units Called to Active Duty (March 5, 2003)

<u>Military Service</u>	<u>Individual Mobilization Augmentees</u>	<u>Grand Total with Units</u>
Air Force	1,438	23,109
Army	2,365	127,487
Coast Guard	2,931	2,931
Marine Corps	1,833	15,022
Navy	3,075	<u>8,004</u>
		176,553

Army Reserve Units in the 11th District, CA

Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) &

<u>Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Personnel</u>
2d Bn 363d Regiment Aug	Camp Parks, CA	97
Joint Intelligence Center Pacific		
Augmentation Detachment 1	Camp Parks, CA	4
114th Chaplain Detachment	Dublin	5
1st Brigade 91st Division Training Support	Dublin	266
91st Division Band	Dublin	41
91st Division HHC Aug	Dublin	141
91st Division Training Support HQ's Det. 1	Dublin	1
91st Division Training Support HQ's Det. 2	Dublin	<u>1</u>
		556

A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve who are currently on active duty can be found at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/d20030305ngr.pdf>.

California National Guard Units that are located in the 11th Congressional District are:

Company B(-), 1-184th Infantry	Battery A, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery
Building 330, Camp Parks	333 North Washington Street
Dublin, CA 94568	Lodi, CA 95240
Phone: 925-829-0223	Phone: 209-333-6957

At this time, there are no soldiers from either units who have been deployed.

Information provided by SMSgt Ramon N. Barboa, California National Guard

*Visit Ready.gov to learn more information about **Citizen Preparedness** from the DHS.*

Blue Star Service Banners (cont.)

• The blue star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are currently in military uniform on active duty.

• A gold star replaced the blue star if that relative was killed or died in service. If more than one star appears on the flag, the gold star takes the place of honor nearest the staff.

• Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers organizations were established during World War I and remain active today, although with a reduced membership.

• The American Legion is rekindling the tradition and spirit of pride in our military men and women following the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The American Legion is providing banners to families in communities across the nation.

For more information about obtaining a blue star banner, visit <http://legion.org>

You are invited to attend a Blue Star Banner Presentation March 30, 2003 at the Karl Ross Post #16 2020 Plymouth Rd. Stockton from 1:00p.m.—4:30p.m.

President George W. Bush

Job Approval Ratings

Approve

All	48%		
Dem	18%	Ind	57%
GOP	83%	Lib	20%
Mod	45%	Con	75%
Men	55%	Women	41%

Strongly Approve

All	30%		
Dem	7%	Ind	29%
GOP	66%	Lib	8%
Mod	20%	Con	56%
Men	35%	Women	25%

Somewhat Approve

All	18%		
Dem	11%	Ind	28%
GOP	17%	Lib	11%
Mod	25%	Con	19%
Men	20%	Women	17%

Disapprove

All	48%		
Dem	77%	Ind	39%
GOP	15%	Lib	76%
Mod	49%	Con	22%
Men	43%	Women	52%

Somewhat Disapprove

All	13%		
Dem	18%	Ind	6%
GOP	6%	Lib	16%
Mod	14%	Con	7%
Men	14%	Women	11%

Strongly Disapprove

All	35%		
Dem	59%	Ind	33%
GOP	10%	Lib	61%
Mod	35%	Con	15%
Men	29%	Women	41%

Information provided by the Office of Strategic Information Services of the California State Assembly Republican Caucus. For more information visit <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/flashpoint/kcflash151.htm>