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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0922

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Define America's 21st Century Battlefield
Co-Sponsor the Global Combat Zone Recognition Act

Dear Colleague:

For too long, America's political and military leadership has failed to properly define the enemy that so brutally attacked us on September 11th, and with whom we have been at war with for over a decade. The complexities of the 21st Century Battlefield require us to reassess and redefine what is a combat zone.

Our men and women in uniform today face a non-state, non-uniform belligerent who has no regard for international borders or boundaries, to include our homeland. Our fight against radical Islam is not just against the Taliban in Afghanistan or al Qaida in Iraq, but against a global movement aimed at destroying western civilization as we know it.

It is time to put political correctness aside. We are at war with a radical ideology that has brought the fight to us time and time again. From Ft. Hood, Texas, to Little Rock, Arkansas, to Frankfurt, Germany, radical Islamists have targeted the men and women of our Armed Forces simply because they were in uniform. Whether in the United States, Europe or the Middle East, any Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine killed or wounded in what is truly a global conflict deserves nothing less than to be treated as if they were fighting in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Next week I will introduce legislation that will treat any Member of the Armed Forces who is killed or wounded in a terrorist attack as if he/she was killed or wounded in an active combat zone, retroactive to September 11th, 2001. Titled the Global Combat Zone Recognition Act, this legislation ensures that the men and women who are targeted specifically because they wear our nation's uniform are treated the same as those who are engaged in combat zones.

Please join me in supporting this important and long overdue legislation that will help put us back on a track towards fully and unequivocally defeating our enemy.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation please contact Josh Grodin on my staff at josh.grodin@mail.house.gov or call 202-225-3026.

Very Respectfully,

Allen B. West
Member of Congress