

Washington, DC - Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) issued the following statement during a moment of silence on the floor of the House of Representatives today in recognition of American soldiers who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan:

“General John Logan, the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially declared the first Memorial Day to be observed on May 30th, 1868. In a healing moment for our nation, flowers were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington Cemetery. Our nation was united in our grief.

“On this Memorial Day, 136 years later, we are again united in our grief and our respect for our fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. Whether speaking of those from the wars of our past or those from our current conflict in Iraq, we acknowledge their valiant service and sacrifice, as well as the void that their loss has left for their families, their communities, and our Nation. In my thoughts now, along with all of those whom we have lost, are six young men from my congressional district who have given their lives in Iraq:

Specialist Brandon Tobler
Corporal Travis Bradach-Nall
Specialist Christopher Rivera Wesley
Private First Class William Ramirez
Specialist Philip Rogers
Lance Corporal Bob W. Roberts

“There are no words that Congress can utter today that would be as noted as the silence of these soldiers. There is no way to express our appreciation and sorrow to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We can only fulfill our duty to ensure that our men and women in uniform receive the best training and equipment, adequate pay and fair treatment during their service and after. We must then assure our veterans new and old, that they will receive the treatment they have been promised. Most importantly, we must pledge our valiant and tireless effort for peace and security at home and abroad.”

The House of Representatives organized the moment of silence as a special Memorial Day tribute.

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Blumenauer Recognizes Our Fallen Soldiers

Wednesday, 19 May 2004 19:00
