



# Yellow Ribbon Day Resolution

H. Res. 263, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

Co-sponsors: Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Brad Wenstrup (R-OH)

*"Our active duty service members and their families sacrifice much and risk everything to keep us safe. We honor them for their bravery and service as protectors of our freedom and our way of life"*

❖ Paul Tonko & Brad Wenstrup

## Active duty troops risk their lives to protect our freedom

- America is protected by some **1.3 million active duty military members & 800,000+ reservists**
- Army troops are often deployed multiple times, on average between 6 to 18 months, leaving their children and spouses as part of their duty to serve our country
- **44.2% of active duty troops have dependent children** living at home
  - More than **80% of the children of active duty troops are 14 years old or younger**

## The yellow ribbon is a symbol that honors our troops

- **The yellow ribbon has historical significance** and has been used in poetry and marching songs related to our U.S. military dating back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Yellow Ribbons traditionally represent the **message of "Support our Troops"**
- The yellow ribbon symbol was first **used in the U.S. to mark national unity and remembrance** for the 52 Americans held hostage in Iran for 444 days, beginning on November 4, 1979
- **Yellow is the official color of the active combat arms branch** of the U.S. Army

## Yellow Ribbon Day is widely recognized

- Numerous organizations have supported efforts to recognize Yellow Ribbon Day including **Gold Star Mothers, Blue Star Mothers and Patriot Guards**
- Every year since 2006, New York State has unanimously proclaimed April 9<sup>th</sup> to be the state's official Yellow Ribbon Day

## Congress should endorse Yellow Ribbon Day!

Staff Sargent Keith "Matt" Maupin of Batavia, Ohio, was captured in Iraq on April 9, 2004, making him the Iraq War's first POW/MIA. Later that year, his family started the Yellow Ribbon Support Center as a way to send troops care packages while spreading Matt's story in the hopes that he would be found.

The **Yellow Ribbon Day Resolution** is a bipartisan effort to express support from Congress for the designation of April 9<sup>th</sup> as National Yellow Ribbon Day, a day for all Americans to honor and celebrate our active duty troops and their families.

*Congress has the opportunity to recognize the sacrifice and service of today's active duty military members and their families. It's the right thing to do!*

Connect with Congressman Paul Tonko on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram: @RepPaulTonko