

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STUDENTS AND STAFF OF P.S. 234 IN ASTORIA, NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the students, staff, faculty, and administrators of Public School 234 in Astoria, New York. To demonstrate their appreciation and gratitude to all of the members of the armed forces and the National Guard and Reserve currently serving in harm's way overseas, the members of the P.S. 234 community became involved in the "Adopt A Unit" initiative and have selflessly given their time and resources to help support our brave men and women serving in the United States military in Iraq.

With the encouragement of their Principal, Thea C. Pallos, and their Librarian, Anna Chelpon, the students of P.S. 234 launched a letter-writing campaign to our troops in Iraq under the auspices of the Adopt A Unit program by connecting through the Internet to www.mysoldier.com. Through this letter-writing campaign, the students learned that many of our men and women serving overseas not only lack basic supplies, such as flashlights, batteries, combat boots, warm socks and thermal underwear, but also regularly go without basic toiletries including toothpaste and toothbrushes, dental floss and feminine care items.

Outraged that our troops were often denied the basic staples of civilian life, the students of P.S. 234 decided to take action. The students began soliciting donations from members of the P.S. 234 community as well as local merchants, and then sent the supplies they collected or purchased to Iraq in boxes donated

by the U.S. Postal Service. What began as a small campaign has now grown into a large-scale operation: The students are currently sending an average of 50 boxes of supplies each and every week to our troops. These patriotic young people have done a truly outstanding job in supporting our service members and supplying them with some of the basic necessities of modern life.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their compassion and support for our brave men and women in the United States armed forces, I request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the students and staff at P.S. 234 in Astoria, Queens. They are great New Yorkers and great Americans. Their love for our country and for our fellow Americans serving our nation abroad is an inspiration to us all.