

## June 24, 2005- 2005 Military Mothers Luncheon

### Sanchez Salutes Military Mothers For Strength and Support

SANTA ANA, Calif. &ndash;On June 11, 2005, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez joined more than 100 blue and gold star mothers for the Second Annual Military Mothers Luncheon where the women were recognized for the extraordinary strength and support they provide their sons and daughters who are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Sanchez emceed the event and offered her own words of support to the mothers: &ldquo;Your strength and support is indescribable. There are months where you are out of communication with your sons and daughters. And yet you maintain hope and stability in your households, always having faith that they will return home safely.&rdquo;

Sanchez, the ranking woman on the House Armed Services Committee, is a member of the Military Personnel Subcommittee, which is responsible for quality of life issues for servicemembers and their families.

&ldquo;Our troops are doing an extraordinary job&rdquo;, added Sanchez, who has visited U.S. troops on various occasions in Iraq and Afghanistan. &ldquo;They are truly committed to defending freedom and providing security. When I travel abroad on congressional delegation trips, I like to sneak away and talk to our soldiers to hear their real concerns. Let me assure you that you and your families are in their hearts and minds and they cannot wait to come home.&rdquo;

Sanchez has made recognition of the Armed Forces a top priority and recently unveiled a tribute wall in her Garden Grove office to honor Southern California active-duty servicemembers and fallen soldiers from Orange County.

Mothers also enjoyed a touching keynote address by Col. Stewart Navarre of the 5th Marines at Camp Pendleton, who spoke about the special relationship he shares with his mother and how she and the rest of his family provided comfort and support for him while he was deployed for Operation Desert Storm.

This year&rsquo;s planning committee included Madres Militares de Orange County and members from the Riverside Chapter of Moms of Military. Donations were provided by Maria Solis-Martinez and Sgt. Ron Gillett.

Military families are encouraged to submit photos of loved ones currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces for display in Rep. Sanchez&rsquo;s office. Photos can be mailed to: Office of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, 12397 Lewis Street, Suite 101 Garden Grove, CA 92840. For more information, please contact: Alyssa Schreiber at (714) 621-0102.