

June 05, 2004- Honoring California Soldiers' Commitment to Defending Freedom

U.S. Rep. Sanchez Honors California Soldiers' Commitment to Defending Freedom

More than 1,000 people gather to honor Californiasoldiers and their families

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif.—Today, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez honored the extraordinary service and sacrifice of California servicemen and woman at the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Association of the United States Army's (AUSA) "Soldier Event" held at Los Alamitos Joint Training Base. Sanchez also thanked the soldiers' families for their continuous support. The ceremony highlighted California's call to duty and commitment to defending freedom.

"Today, we honor our active military servicemen that live right here in California. For many years Californians have served their country proudly. They are the heroes among us," said Sanchez.

"I also want to express my most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the men and women of the United States Army. Thank you for your steadfast allegiance and dedication, especially during this current conflict we face in Iraq. I congratulate the Army on their 229th birthday. Your tradition of honor and excellence continues."

There are approximately 12,000 U.S. Army soldiers in the 63rd Regional Readiness Command currently serving in Military Intelligence, Military Police, Quartermaster, Transportation, Medical Service, Hospitals and Ordinance.

"I have visited our troops in Iraq, Kosovo and most recently in Korea. Every time I meet a California soldier I feel very proud because I know Californians are making a difference around the world.

"I also want to thank the families of our soldiers for their constant love and support."

Sanchez proudly accepted an award from the U.S. Army on behalf of the State of California. The award recognized California's ongoing contribution to defending freedom and the duty of its servicemen and women.