
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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SENATOR GREGG COSPONSORS INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE FULL AIRFARE FOR HOME-BOUND TROOPS

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that he is an original cosponsor of an amendment authored by U.S. Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) that will be offered to the emergency appropriations measure for continued military operations and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amendment will provide full airfare for our troops returning home for approved leave. Currently, the military will fly members to certain points in the United States, who must then use their own resources to travel home from there. The amendment will be offered to S. 1689, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill for Iraq and Afghanistan Security and Reconstruction currently being debated on the Senate floor.

Senator Gregg stated, "In the face of a tremendously difficult task, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces are making our country proud. When the military is able to provide them with a few weeks of rest and relaxation to spend time with their loved ones, the government should not ask them to bear a financial burden to get home. Booking plane tickets and other forms of travel on short notice can be incredibly expensive and Congress should do what it can to make this travel available to all of our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen and women fighting overseas to keep our country safe."

While lending his support for the measure in Washington, Senator Gregg continues to work with the families of the 368th Combat Engineer Battalion in New Hampshire, as well as the Army, Pentagon and the Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve to get an explanation for the recent announcement that the service members stationed in Kuwait would not be allowed to take their expected upcoming 15-day leave. Senator Gregg recently contacted several airlines to inquire as to the possibility of full refunds in situations such as the one facing the families of the 368th.

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