



National Guard Deployment Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Monday, October 5, 2009

I am very proud to stand before you as Governor of Arizona as you begin your mission to Iraq.

Our state – indeed our entire nation – owes a special thanks to you soldiers and your families who so ably support the extended deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq.

America is strong and safe today because of commitments such as yours and those who have gone before you. On behalf of all Arizonans we send our embrace of comfort to the friends and families of those killed or wounded.

If you will, please, bow your heads in a moment of silence and tribute to Sergeant Thomas D. Rabjohn who died on October 3, 2009, in Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Rabjohn gave the last full measure of devotion to this nation. His was a sacred sacrifice that will forever remain in our hearts.

... Thank you.

While the stress on our force is real, our all-volunteer force is truly strong and resilient enough to fight and defeat the terrorist threats to America, and the world.

The sacrifice of our brave fighting men and women of our Guard and armed forces today -- as well as the many veterans before them who served their country with distinction -- have helped liberate millions and made the world a much safer place to raise our children.

We are forever indebted to your service to our nation. . . Because you servicemen and women remain brave, America remains strong.

Here at home, I hope all of you know that Arizonan's throughout our state support our troops -- we support your mission, and we will not become apathetic to the difficult job you are undertaking on our behalf.

It is also a good time to reflect on the indelible fact that courage is not confined to the field of battle ... courage is also abundant in every home that has sent a son or daughter off to war.

I know you are leaving behind friends and family and loved ones.

Let me re-emphasize -- that you are also leaving behind a grateful state and nation.

We all salute your courage and your willingness to stand in harm's way to protect us from the dangers abroad.

It is not an easy undertaking for you.

It is not easy for us to say goodbye.

But we all know that what you are doing is right in the cause of freedom and liberty.

With God's help, and our prayers, may you return to us safe and whole and victorious in your mission.

God speed to you, and bring you safely back to us.