



# Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

## Congresswoman Betty McCollum

*"Serving Minnesota's Families"*



MARCH 21, 2003

### Hot News!

#### House Passes Clean Military Tax Relief

In a victory for military families, Rep. Betty McCollum was joined by her colleagues in voting for the Armed Services Tax Fairness Act providing \$835 million in tax relief for men and women serving abroad and their families. Rep. McCollum and other Democratic members urged Republican Leadership to remove the special interest provisions and replace them with additional tax relief for members of the National Guard and Reserve.

"I am proud to support the men and women of the armed services who are working hard and sacrificing so much to keep our country safe," said Rep. McCollum. "Providing this tax relief is one way to recognize and reward their dedication."

Rep. McCollum has met with families of armed service men and women who have indicated that they will be facing financial hardship while their loved ones are on active duty. The legislation will help ease some of their financial strain by including tax relief provisions that will save military families \$85 million in taxes in 2003 and \$835 million over the next decade - \$353 million more relief for armed service members and their families than under the original bill.

#### In Betty's Words

**"My thoughts and prayers are with the brave men and women of our Armed Services and their families. Like many Americans, I have raised questions about whether military action at this time is the best way to disarm Saddam Hussein and whether we have exhausted every other alternative. Now that we are at war, Americans support and stand united behind our men and women in uniform who now bear the burden of this action. Thanks to them, we will win the war. I hope and pray they come home safely. I hope and pray that we will win the peace."**

*-- Statement Regarding U.S. Attack on Iraq, March 20, 2003*



*Photo from New York Times*

*The U.S. House passed by a vote of 416 to 0 HConRes 26, the first piece of legislation passed by Rep. Betty McCollum. The resolution condemns the brutal punishment of death by stoning as a gross violation of international human rights.*

*McCollum introduced the resolution in response to a sentence of death by stoning imposed upon a Nigerian woman convicted of adultery. The stoning sentence of Safiya Hussaini has since been overturned after a worldwide outcry. Another Nigerian mother, Amina Lawal (pictured above, with her daughter), has similarly been sentenced. Her most recent appeal has failed.*

*"...Stoning sentences have been commuted in the last year due to the United States' and international pressure. Lives have been saved because we spoke out against this abhorrent practice... Today we have the ability to save more lives by rendering our strong support for this resolution," said Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), a cosponsor of HConRes 26 as he spoke in favor of McCollum's resolution on the House Floor.*

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . [www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html](http://www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html)

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