



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



April 30, 2004

"Mr. President, Our Mission Has NOT Been Accomplished."

One year ago on May 1st, President Bush landed on the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln and spoke before thousands of uniformed sailors and aviators. Bush told the nation that "major combat operations" in Iraq were over – with a massive banner behind him declaring "Mission Accomplished."

"Today, the U.S. mission in Iraq is far from accomplished," said Congresswoman McCollum. **"The president has failed to fully enlist meaningful cooperation from the international community, failed to adequately equip our troops and failed to provide a plan so that our troops can be successful and return home safely."**

More soldiers died in Iraq in April 2004 than during the invasion itself. Since the war in Iraq began, more than 730 U.S. soldiers have died, 600 since the president's May 1st, 2003 "Mission Accomplished" speech.

The security situation in Iraq continues to deteriorate. Our military faces both a Sunni insurgency in the northern city of Fallujah and a Shiite resistance in Najaf in the south. In response to the April violence, the Pentagon announced that it is delaying the return of 20,000 soldiers who have completed their one-year tour of duty.

In addition, the Army Chief of Staff recently indicated that too many soldiers do not have armored vehicles. A new Defense Department report indicates that 25 percent of those killed in combat might be alive if they had been in armored Humvees or other armored vehicles.

"The American people, our troops and their families deserve an honest and transparent plan for success in Iraq from President Bush," said McCollum.

Minnesota American Heart Association Meets with McCollum



Minnesota representatives from the American Heart Association recently met with Congresswoman Betty McCollum to discuss heart and stroke-related research funding and the STOP Stroke Act. To learn more about the American Heart Association's efforts to reduce cardiovascular disease, please visit their website at www.americanheart.org.

The Week Ahead

Saturday, May 1st — Rep. McCollum will address members of the Minnesota American Psychological Association at their annual conference.

Monday, May 3rd — Rep. McCollum will host the 2004 Congressional Arts Competition for high school students.

Thursday, May 6th — Representatives from CARE will meet with Rep. McCollum to discuss funds for maternal and reproductive health, education and HIV/AIDS.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.mccollum.house.gov

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