



# IRAQ *and* AFGHANISTAN VETERANS *of* AMERICA

February 20, 2009

The Honorable John Hall  
1217 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Congressman Hall,

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is proud to offer our support for H.R. 952, the "Combat PTSD Act"; clarifying the meaning of "combat with the enemy" for the purposes of establishing a service-connected disability with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 953 clearly defines "combat with the enemy" as service in a combat theater, ensuring that servicemembers receive the benefits that they deserve. By ensuring that service in a combat zone is enough to establish service connection, servicemembers returning with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder will be spared the unnecessary stress of justifying their service to the VA and will be instead treated moved directly to treatment.

Ensuring that returning servicemembers are able to receive the treatment they need is critical to the readjustment process. We are proud to offer our assistance and thank you for this meaningful legislation. If we can be of help, please contact Tom Tarantino, at (202) 544-7692 or [tom@iava.org](mailto:tom@iava.org).

Sincerely,

Paul Rieckhoff  
Executive Director  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America