

March 20, 2003

Congressman Todd Akin's Statement Regarding the Initiation of Ground Actions
in Iraq

Washington, D.C.- As U.S. troops initiate ground actions in Iraq, U.S. Rep. Todd Akin (R-MO), a member of the House Armed Service Committee, made the following statement:

"The initiation of ground actions in Iraq is the true beginning of a necessary and just war against an inhumane regime that has brutally oppressed the people of Iraq, proven itself a grave threat to its neighbors, used weapons of mass destruction against civilian populations and continues to threaten the free world with some of the most destructive weapons ever developed.

"I fully support our Commander in Chief who, after long negotiations with the world community, has authorized the use of military action to ensure the safety of Americans. For twelve years Saddam Hussein has engaged in deception, denial and blatant contempt for 17 United Nation resolutions. President Bush is showing the courage and leadership necessary to confront a grave and gathering threat to the free world.

"Our troops are now engaging the enemy in Iraq because Saddam Hussein has chosen the road to war. It is the courage and commitment of these young Americans that will secure the liberation of the Iraqi people from the whims of an insufferable dictator."