

March 19, 2009 **Washington, D.C.** – Today, Congressman André Carson issued the following statement to commemorate the upcoming sixth anniversary of the U.S.-led military invasion of Iraq. Thursday, March 19, 2009 will mark the sixth anniversary. “Tomorrow, our nation will solemnly mark the sixth anniversary of the commencement of ground operations in Iraq. Since the invasion began, 4,257 servicemen and women have lost their lives in the service and defense of the United States.

Almost 150,000 others have been wounded in combat, often suffering irreversible injuries in the name of freedom and democracy.

“Last month, in a reassuring shift from policies of the Bush Administration, President Obama announced a comprehensive plan that will sustain a minimal troop presence in Iraq while refocusing our primary efforts to the ongoing War in Afghanistan.

While I commend the President for this long overdue announcement, I believe that more can be done to ensure that our troops are returned to their families in the near future.

In the coming months, I look forward to working with the Obama administration to see that all of our troops are brought home as quickly as the situation will allow.

“Americans still rightfully disagree about the rationale and conduct of the Iraq War.

However, despite our different points of view, I believe it is critically important for all Americans to remember and honor those who have put themselves in harm’s way to protect our freedom.”

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