

**Thank you to the men and women  
of the Building Trades unions  
who served our nation  
with honor and distinction.  
We are proud of you.**

**Throughout our nation's history,  
the men and women of Building Trades unions  
have stood united on the frontline for America at home and abroad.**

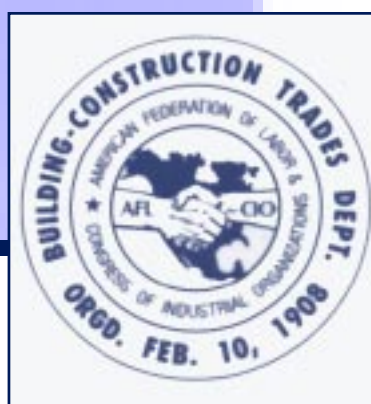
**Tens of thousands of union trades workers from California and  
across America put down their tools and left their jobs and families  
to answer the call to duty in the war torn Persian Gulf.**

**To the families of those brave union workers who gave their lives  
in battle, we extend our deepest sorrow for their tremendous loss.**

**To our Brothers and Sisters who were injured while serving valiantly,  
we extend our continued support and gratitude for your sacrifice.**

**To every union trades worker who fought in Afghanistan and Iraq  
serving proudly in every branch of our armed services,  
we honor and salute your courage and patriotism.**

**And we honor your continuing fight for working families  
here on the homefront...for good jobs, fair wages,  
safe working conditions and a secure future for all families.**



**The Building & Construction Trades Dept.- AFL-CIO is proud to sponsor this tribute to our own American patriots.  
We will never forget to recognize the sacrifice and patriotism of our courageous members.  
We want to make sure a few other folks won't forget either.**

This Spring the erroneously-called "merit shop" construction industry in San Diego, CA ran a ridiculous ad as part of its on-going media campaign to demean and discredit union families. It was a shameful and inappropriate display designed to deceive the public. **While thousands of our brave union members were under fire in the Persian Gulf, they were also under attack here at home.** The Associated Builders and Contractors and its "Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction" and the Western Electric Contractors Association, Inc. sank to new lows in falsely questioning the patriotism of American union members and the union leaders who fight for them. **Our members and the union leadership are very proud to be soldiers and veterans.**

It wasn't the first time. The ABC and its cohorts have never let the truth get in their way...about the unions' superior training and apprenticeship programs, about union health care plans, about the quality of work truly skilled union workers provide, about the success of PLAs and about union shops. We have come to expect their exaggeration and deception and will fight back every time with the truth. **But, when they mock the patriotism of American soldiers and veterans, they discredit themselves and deserve the public's criticism and disdain.**