



# NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

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Editorials - July 1, 2005

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## *Fly the flag:* Remember the troops this weekend

FROM THOSE who think the war in Iraq is a valiant stand for freedom and democracy to those who think it a foolhardy misadventure, all can agree on one thing: Our service personnel deserve to know that America deeply appreciates their sacrifices.

In his speech on Tuesday, President Bush urged Americans to express their gratitude to our troops on Independence Day.

“In this time of testing, our troops can know: The American people are behind you,” he said. “Next week, our nation has an opportunity to make sure that support is felt by every soldier, sailor, airman, Coast Guardsman, and Marine at every outpost across the world. This Fourth of July, I ask you to find a way to thank the men and women defending our freedom — by flying the flag, sending a letter to our troops in the field, or helping the military family down the street.”

Those were kind sentiments, which do not have to wait until the Fourth of July to be expressed in action by a grateful country.

Flying the flag, sending a letter, assisting a military family — why not do this now? Why not send a care package in addition to a letter? A Web site, [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com), has been set up by military families to connect folks back home with military personnel in the field who could use care packages. If you want to send something but you don't know what or to whom, you can visit that site and find out.

The simplest gesture is to fly the flag at home, or even as a magnet on your vehicle. Obviously, the troops in the field cannot see those flags themselves. But their families can.

This Fourth of July weekend, fly that flag and show your pride in your country, as well as your appreciation for our men and women fighting to defend it. And remember, nothing says you have to take it down on July 5.

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