I voted Yes on H.R. 1339, to recognize Salem, MA, as the birthplace of the National Guard of the United States.

This bill recognizes Salem, Massachusetts, as the birthplace of our National Guard and directs the chief of the National Guard Bureau to provide ceremonial support at the dedication of any plaque or official recognition placed in Salem celebrating the city's designation as the Guard's birthplace. The legislation would prohibit the use of federal funds for the design, procurement and installation of the plaque, but the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard could accept and spend non-federal contributions for this purpose.

I am a proud supporter of the New York National Guard and all of our Guard units that have sacrificed so much on our behalf. This legislation would allow for an appropriate designation of Salem as the place where our remarkable National Guard history began.

The bill was approved by a vote of 413 – 6 – 4.