

Dear Soldier:

I am so proud of the job our forces are doing in the Middle East. As part of a loosely knit national alliance of cosmetic dental practices, we collect unwanted candy from children and adults, after Halloween. Hopefully some of this will reach you in time for Thanksgiving. If not, definitely Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanza.

The outpouring of support from the South Jersey community was unbelievable. In three days we collected over 1200 pounds of donated candy. We were then faced with the task of getting it to Iraq and Afghanistan. Thanks to stories on WPVI 6, Fox 29 and the Courier Post, it was simply a matter of my wish being the citizens' command.

I got a phone call from Lynda Crespo at the Bucks County YMCA. It turned out she was gathering supplies, and had room on a donated 18-wheeler to get the materials up to Fort Drum. Another concerned citizen, Mike Harrold from Delaware County called and offered the use of his truck, and will drive the candy from our office to the Y. The Philadelphia Phantoms called. They have a unit they support in Afghanistan. They will be picking up a few barrels of candy for the cause.

Students from various schools, Brownies, Girl Scouts, and volunteer citizens are coming in on Thursday November 8, 2006 to help package everything up. The packaging was all donated by Mike LaForte from Propak.

We send this candy in the hope that you use it to help spread democracy among the children of the region. Of course we realize that it may be difficult for you to resist eating some of it yourself. As a concerned dentist, I would remind you to brush and floss and especially rinse your mouth with water after ingesting sweets, especially sweets that are sticky.

We wish you a safe Holiday Season, and more importantly, a safe return to American Soil.