

Honoring Our Veterans

There is no more important issue than supporting our veterans. Unfortunately, it is too often the case that veterans are not taken care of when they return home from overseas. Nearly 200,000 veterans are homeless, or almost 25% of the entire homeless population. Additionally, nearly 2 million veterans are without health care, along with 3.8 million members of their families.

I have supported measures designed to improve veterans' health care and improve conditions for veterans across America. I was a proud supporter of the G.I. Bill for the 21st Century, which expands the highly successful G.I. Bill to cover full costs for tuition at public universities for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

I understand that America is a great country because of the sacrifices of our veterans. My first floor speech was on a resolution supporting D-Day Remembrance Day. I have assembled a Veterans' Advisory Council made up of 6th District veterans to advise him on policy relating to veterans. I will always support and honor American veterans.

I have supported the following legislation:

- Strongly supported the recent passage G.I. Bill for the 21st Century, which will increase scholarship money at public universities from 70% to 100%. It also provides for living and book stipends. The original G.I. Bill, signed shortly after World War II, paved the way for the "Greatest Generation" to live up to that designation (H.R. 2642).

- Sponsored H.R. 6445, which seeks to eliminate co-payments for catastrophically disabled veterans at VA hospitals. It is often the case that the catastrophically disabled are some of the poorest of the poor, making it that much harder for them to make their co-payments.

- Supported the Justin Bailey Veterans Substance Use Disorders Prevention and Treatment Act of 2008. This bill authorized the expansion and improvement of health care services available for substance use disorders at the Department of Veterans Affairs. It requires the VA to provide the full spectrum of care for substance use disorders at every VA medical center (H.R. 5554).

- Voted for the Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2008, which requires the VA to reimburse veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities (H.R. 3819).

- Voted for the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008, which provides a cost of living increase for veterans' disability benefits and to dependency and indemnity compensation for veterans' families. The cost-of-living increase is based on the cost-of-living adjustment made annually for Social Security payments (H.R. 5826).

- Supported the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Authorization and Lease Act of 2008, which authorizes major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2009 (H.R. 5856).

- Voted for the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act, that allows for members of the Armed Services to count combat pay towards the Earned Income Tax Credit. It also provides a tax credit to small businesses which pay reservists called for active duty (H.R. 6081).