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Meeting held the day after the new G.I. Bill was signed into law

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"The 4th of July work week is the appropriate time to honor the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our freedoms," Cazayoux said. "I am incredibly grateful to our veterans, and I am thankful to the veterans who have agreed to be on my advisory council. They will be a tremendous asset for me as Congress works to ensure that its commitment to veterans lives up to their service to our country."

In the first of what will be regular meetings, Congressman Cazayoux listened to presentations on the most pressing issues facing veterans. One of the major topics discussed was veterans' health care, including needed improvements to Tricare, care at VA hospitals, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and substance abuse issues. The group also discussed retirement issues, educational benefits, and hardships placed on reservists called up for active duty.

Congressman Cazayoux, who was recently named to the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the subcommittee on Veterans' Health, expressed his support for veterans and lauded the passage of the G.I. Bill for the 21st Century, which was signed into law on Monday. The bill will increase the current G.I. Bill to cover all tuition at public universities, as well as stipends for room and board and books. The current G.I. bill only covers 70% of tuition and does not provide for additional stipends.

"The original G.I. Bill was a major reason that the World War II generation became the 'Greatest Generation,'" Cazayoux said. "As our young men and women return from Iraq and Afghanistan, it is imperative that we honor them by giving them the opportunity to succeed through a college education."

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