



Dear Neighbor,

Monday is Memorial Day, a solemn occasion for all of us to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation. We also honor veterans who have served bravely and returned home, and especially the men and women who are courageously serving in the most dangerous conditions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Last Tuesday, I had the privilege of organizing a bipartisan ceremony with ten of my fellow Congresswomen at Arlington National Cemetery to recognize the contributions of women to the military.



Congresswoman Lois Capps salutes women in the military at Arlington National Cemetery.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration and Congressional leadership have broken the covenant between veterans and the government. The recent budget resolution rammed through the House cut veterans' health care by \$6 billion, sharply increasing health care fees for veterans younger than 65. I strongly opposed this resolution. Instead, I support the GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, legislation that would modernize veterans' education and training programs, provide a \$1000 bonus for troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and fully fund veterans' health. This bill would also eliminate the "widow's tax," a hurtful provision in current law that reduces the Defense Department's benefit to survivors of those killed in combat dollar for dollar by the Veterans' Administration (VA) payment.

I am also committed to protecting the privacy of our veterans. I was shocked by the recent revelation that the personal data of 26.5 million veterans was lost by the VA, and the victims were not informed for three weeks. I am a cosponsor of the Veterans Identity Protection Act of 2006, which would protect these veterans by providing credit monitoring to detect identity theft. This legislation will prevent needless suffering while the VA investigates and corrects its mistakes.

Our servicemen and women have sacrificed much to protect the values and ideals of our democracy. This Memorial Day, as we enjoy time with our friends and families, let us not forget to honor their commitment and sacrifice. To sign up for future email updates on my work in Congress, [click here](#).

Sincerely,

Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

**Congresswoman Lois Capps is here to help you.  
Please feel free to contact any of our district offices anytime.**

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