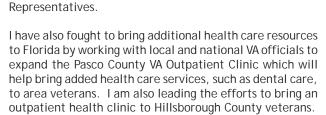


A MESSAGE TO OUR VETERANS

It is an honor to represent you in Congress and to have the opportunity to work on veterans issues. Our veterans deserve the best, and it is my job to work toward achieving that goal.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee Veterans' Affairs Task Force, I have made it a priority to convey the need for better benefits and opportunities for our nation's veterans, and I have introduced legislation to improve veterans' benefits and services. I am proud that many of my bills have been signed into law or have been approved by the U.S. House of



My office provides many important services for our veterans. From providing assistance with VA claims to working with federal agencies to solve complex issues, this resource is available to all veterans and their families in the Ninth Congressional District.

Tan. Bilis.

Sincerely,

VETERANS LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

- H.R. 1580 Creates a DOD-wide Ombudsman function to answer and assist all patient and family questions on a wide variety of issues. (*Incorporated into Public Law 110-181*)
- H.R. 89 Eliminates the 20-year requirement for the Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Program. (Incorporated into Public Law 110-181)
- H.R. 2027 Guarantees a minimum of 3.5 percent military pay raise for FY2008. *(Incorporated into Public Law 110-181)*
- $\mbox{H.R.}$ 5481 Guarantees a minimum of 3.9 percent military pay raise for FY2009.

(Passed U.S. House of Representatives as part of H.R. 5658)

- H. Con. Res. 295 Expresses deep appreciation to military families for support of their loved ones on active duty. (Passed U.S. House of Representatives)
- H.R. 704 Allows a widow to remarry at age 55 and retain her Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits. (Hearing held in Veterans' Affairs Committee)
- H.R. 1197 Expands presumptions for disability compensation for former POWs. (Hearing held in Veterans' Affairs Committee)
- H.R. 303 Provides full concurrent receipt for those disabled military retirees rated 40 percent or less disabled.
- **H.R. 843** Provides a 50 percent tax credit for compensation paid during the period employees are performing service as members of the Ready Reserve or the National Guard.
- **H.R. 844** Provides a 10 percent tax credit for unpaid compensation to the employers of members of the National Guard and Reserves.
- $\mbox{H.R.}$ 2319 Establishes a mail-order pharmacy pilot program providing a zero co-payment for participants.
- H.R. 6181 Provides current and former service members with a one-time tax credit toward the purchase of a primary residence.

Assistance Offered to Veterans in the 9th Congressional District

* VA Compensation & Pension Claims * Survivor Benefits * Healthcare Enrollment & Treatment Issues * Obtaining Military Medical, Personnel and Discharge Records *

For more information please contact Congressman Bilirakis' Palm Harbor Office (727) 773-2871 or visit online at www.bilirakis.house.gov

Washington Office

1630 Longworth Building Washington, DC 20515

Tel: (202) 225-5755 Fax: (202) 225-4085 Palm Harbor Office

35111 US Hwy 19 N, #301 Palm Harbor, FL

Tel: (727) 773-2871 Fax: (727) 784-6471 Temple Terrace Office

10941 N. 56th Street Temple Terrace, FL 33617 Tel: (813) 985-8541

Fax: (813) 985-0714