

THE AMERICAN Legion

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\$2.50 JULY 2008

The magazine for a strong America

VET VOICE

'Signature Wound of the War'

I am writing to commend *The American Legion Magazine* for exposing the damaging effect that traumatic brain injuries have had on thousands of our military men and women. Your work to bring the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the forefront in the May 2008 issue will undoubtedly help inspire policymakers and military medical experts to advance better screening, care and services for TBI survivors and their families.

Although there is a long way to go before our soldiers receive all the resources they need, Congress has worked with the military toward a number of important accomplishments, including new mandatory post-deployment brain injury screenings, and approval of legislation that will mandate a study to begin officially tracking the occurrence of combat-related traumatic brain injuries.

When Congress considers reforming military policy and veterans services, it is The American Legion and other veterans advocacy groups who we depend on to speak with the loudest voice. With your commitment to TBI prevention and care, I am confident that a healthier future is in store for America's military men and women.

—U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr., D-N.J.

