

Congressman Joe Sestak  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
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Washington, DC 20515

  
M.C.  
Prsrt Std



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## Congressman Joe Sestak invites you to his important summit on Veterans Affairs

### Veterans History Project

Congressman Joe Sestak is proud to support the Veterans History Project, which collects and archives the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans to honor their service and share their stories with current and future generations in the Library of Congress. The Project also collects stories from home front civilians and spouses who worked in support of our armed forces. High school students will be a significant part of this process by interviewing veterans and learning the value of public service from them. Congressman Sestak's offices will document these recollections. Please call the district office to tell your story (610-892-8623).

### Contact Congressman Sestak:

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### Veterans Summit Monday, September 24, 2007 Delaware County Community College Large Auditorium

8:30 am — Registration

9:00 am — Opening Remarks

9:15 am — Panel I: **Veterans' Health Care**

Mr. Richard Citron - Director, Philadelphia VA Medical Center  
Mr. Gary Devansky - Director, Coatesville VA Medical Center

10:15 am — Panel II: **Veterans' Insurance and Benefits**

Mr. Tom Lastowka - Director, VA Regional Office & Insurance Center

11:15 am — Panel III: **Veterans' Business and Education Opportunities**

Mr. Clyde Stoltzfus - Director, Procurement Technical Assistance Center,  
Wharton School of Business  
Mr. Glenn McAllister - Director, Widener University Small Business  
Development Center (SBDC)  
Mr. Sam Ficchi - Education Liaison Representative, VA Education Center

12:15 pm — Panel IV: **Other Veterans' Issues**

*Each panel will be followed by audience questions. In addition, caseworkers and representatives from participating agencies will be on hand to help with individual cases. If you need more information or would like to attend, please contact Ann Watters at (610) 892-8623 or [ann.watters@mail.house.gov](mailto:ann.watters@mail.house.gov)*

Visit my website: [www.sestak.house.gov](http://www.sestak.house.gov)



**"Our military is a vital resource if we are to continue to be a force for peace and prosperity in the world, but the war in Iraq is a tragic misadventure. I have always supported - and will continue to support - a date certain to redeploy our troops, which will allow us to address our other security concerns that have been negatively affected abroad and at home by our involvement in Iraq."**

**— CONGRESSMAN JOE SESTAK**



## From the Desk of CONGRESSMAN JOE SESTAK



Dear Neighbor,

As a veteran who served for three decades, I have a deep respect for those who defend our country. Their care and support during and after their service is of the utmost importance to me. This brochure details my efforts for our veterans and also focuses on our national interests in the Iraqi conflict.

Our troops have served our country courageously and brilliantly, but our engagement in Iraq has degraded our security, pushing our army to the breaking point so that it cannot confront other pressing security concerns at home and abroad. My military service, as a 3-Star Admiral and as

Director of the Navy's anti-terrorism unit, convinces me that an inconclusive, open-ended involvement in Iraq is not in our security interests. Ending this war is necessary. But how we end it is of even greater importance for our troops' safety and our security, with a military presence also remaining in the Persian Gulf Region.

First, redeployment from Iraq will be lengthy: moving 160,000 troops and 50,000 civilian contractors and closing bases is logistically challenging, especially in conflict. To ensure our troops' safety, it will take at least a year and as much as 15 to 24 months.

This deliberate redeployment will provide the time to work with Iran and Syria, who are involved destructively in this war – but who, according to our intelligence community, want stability after our departure and, therefore, a constructive role.

**A planned end to our military engagement in Iraq is therefore necessary.** A “date certain” deadline will force Iraqi leaders to assume responsibility, and will provide Iran and Syria the incentive to prevent violence otherwise caused by our departure. Our troops can either return home or deploy to regions (such as Afghanistan) where terrorists pose a threat to our security.

Equally important, given an Army that must start a lengthy redeployment due to the strain placed upon it or risk unraveling, we have an opportunity for a bipartisan agreement to end this war. There can be a stable Iraq, if we work with Iran and Syria to meet this goal. Congressional agreement – with an initial redeployment deadline as a goal – can provide the basis for a bi-partisan approach to convince the President to use diplomacy to bring about a stable accommodation in Iraq once our troops redeploy. I am dedicated to this end for a more secure America.

**The sacrifices of our men and women in uniform provide the foundation of our very freedom. They should be able to rely on the promises of the nation they fought for -- a national commitment to which I am equally dedicated.**

Sincerely

U.S. Congressman, 7<sup>th</sup> District of Pennsylvania

## Addressing the Iraq Crisis:

- Introduced legislation calling for the redeployment of our troops out of Iraq by 12/31/07
- Voted for a date certain for redeploying out of Iraq, including H.R. 2237
- Visited Iraq with Senator Chuck Hagel to assess strengths and weaknesses of U.S. security and reconstruction efforts. Both are leading advocates of a bipartisan solution to end the war
- Authorized the largest amount of funding in history for 16 U.S. intelligence agencies and intelligence-related activities for the U.S. government

## Protecting the men and women bravely serving our nation:

- Provided \$1.2 billion for personal body armor and \$4.1 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles, which will reduce the casualties in vehicles by as much as 80%
- Provided a 3.5% across-the-board pay raise for all service members
- Increased funding for homeland security to \$33.7 billion supporting first responders and other security forces on the front lines against terrorism

## Supporting the veterans who have proudly served our nation:

- Supported our veterans through an additional \$12 billion in funding for veterans programs
- Supported current and recently enacted bills that expand veterans' health care and benefits, including measures to treat traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder and mental health, and blindness
- Prohibited increases in military and retiree health care and pharmacy user fees
- Co-sponsored a measure to ensure state paid annuities for blind veterans are not factored into SSI benefit calculations
- Offer comprehensive veterans' services in the District Office, including assistance:
  - Applying for veterans' benefits
  - Finding the status of a VA claim
  - Obtaining lost or un-awarded service medals
  - Acquiring records from the National Personnel Service Records Center
  - Recording your military history with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project



Congressman Sestak discusses veterans' issues at a recent conference.