

The selfless and remarkable men and women who have served our country in uniform deserve our enduring support.



Local Veterans

One of my top priorities in Congress has been to strengthen services for veterans in the North State.

- The VA is expanding health services in our area:
 - Over the past 20 years, the VA outpatient clinic in Redding has expanded from 15 to over 100 staff.
 - The Chico clinic has expanded from five staff with only two doctors in 2000 to over 40 staff including five doctors.
 - A new community based outpatient clinic will open in Yuba City/Marysville within the next six months. Meanwhile, VA partnered with Feather River Indian Tribe and Indian Health Service to provide primary care for veterans until the clinic opens.
 - Veterans in Siskiyou County should be able to receive primary care in Yreka starting mid December.
- I have supported efforts to bring a state veterans home to Northern California and worked to ensure the federal program that funds these projects has sufficient resources to keep the home on track and on schedule. Construction is expected to begin in April 2010.
- To better provide counseling and support services to our combat veterans in Shasta County, I have requested that the VA complete a "Needs Assessment" for the area so that Redding can be considered by the Secretary as he moves to expand the vets center network.

Supporting Our Armed Forces in the War on Terror

It is critical that Congress continue to support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and ensure they have the resources and support they need to fight and win the War on Terror, and when they return home, including:

- Allowing reservists who served since 9/11 to have more timely access to their retirement sooner;
- Supporting military pay raise legislation;
- Supporting funding and efforts to ensure veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury and PTSD have the care they need; and
- Supporting our airmen and their families at Beale Air Force Base as they carry out their intelligence mission.

Veterans' Health

This year Congress passed important measures to address veterans' health care, such as:

- Increased funding to improve the efficiency of the Veterans Health Administration to ensure that the VA can provide the best possible care without political or budgetary delays.

Veterans' Education Benefits

I was a lead sponsor of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act. This new GI bill improves educational opportunities for veterans who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001.

Veterans' Housing Issues

I sponsored legislation to make post-Vietnam veterans in California (and Texas) eligible for state home loan programs funded by tax-exempt mortgage bonds, which will make homes more affordable for eligible veterans. This bill was signed into law in 2008.

U.S. Representative Wally Herger

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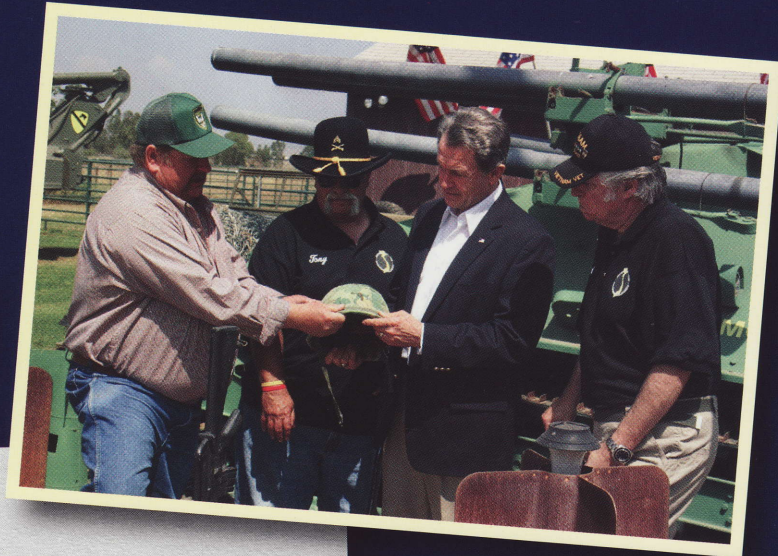
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Wally Herger

M.C.
PRESORTED STANDARD

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Honoring our Veterans



Rep. Wally Herger meeting
with local veterans to
discuss health care.



U.S. Representative Wally Herger

Dear Friends,

Our veterans have served our nation with great honor and courage. It is only right for the nation to repay their sacrifices by providing them with appropriate benefits and access to the best possible medical care.

Washington is experiencing a significant budget crunch and, although we need to adopt a fiscally responsible approach, I believe that taking care of our veterans should rank among our highest priorities. Since 2001, Congress has boosted funding for veterans' health care by more than 50%, allowed "concurrent receipt" of retirement pay and disability benefits for severely disabled veterans, and expanded the TRICARE program to cover military retirees over the age of 65.

In recognition of Veterans Day, I want to express my gratitude to the selfless and remarkable men and women, past and present, who have demonstrated their love for our nation by serving and sacrificing in uniform. I also wanted to take this opportunity to share with you a few recent developments on issues affecting Northern California veterans and let you know I will continue my work to ensure our local veterans have access to the services and health care they deserve.

Sincerely,

Wally
Wally Herger
Member of Congress