

Useful Military and Veterans' Resources

For Veterans:

24-Hour VA Suicide Hotline.....	1-800-273-TALK
Veterans Administration.....	1-800-827-1000
AZ Department of Veterans Services	
-Tucson.....	1-520-207-4960
-David-Monthan AFB.....	1-520-228-5825
-Sierra Vista.....	1-520-458-7144
Health Care Benefits.....	1-877-222-8387
Education Benefits.....	1-888-442-4551
Life Insurance.....	1-800-669-8477
Mammography Helpline.....	1-888-492-7844

For Military Personnel and Families:

The Army Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline.....	1-800-984-8523
Military OneSource.....	1-800-342-9647
DoD Child Abuse Hotline.....	1-800-336-4592
Army Emergency Relief (AER) at Ft. Huachuca.....	1-520-533-2330
Financial Counseling at Ft. Huachuca.....	1-520-533-2330
Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) at Davis-Monthan AFB.....	1-520-228-5690

Arizona Health Centers:

Tucson VA Medical Center.....	1-800-470-8262
Northwest Tucson VA Clinic.....	1-520-792-1450
Green Valley VA Clinic.....	1-800-470-8262
Sierra Vista VA Clinic.....	1-520-792-1450

In your dealings with the VA or any federal agency, Congresswoman Giffords may be able to help. If you or a loved one are having trouble, please call the Tucson Office (520) 881-3588 or Cochise County Office at (520) 459-3115.

Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords

1661 N. Swan, Suite 112
Tucson, AZ 85712

Gabrielle Giffords
M.C.
PRE-SORTED STANDARD



"Dear Rep. Giffords,
I was having a frustrating time in my effort to secure delinquent disability compensation due to an administrative error by the Veterans' Administration with my mailing address. After five months of phone calls and a trip to Phoenix, I still received no relief from the VA. After turning to you for help, your staff was successful in securing payment for me. I am grateful."

Master Sergeant Richard D. Lemons,
U.S. Air Force, Retired, Tucson, AZ

Military and Veterans Legislative Update

Office of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords



Congresswoman Giffords talks with Army First Sergeant Novak of Tucson about conditions on the ground in Afghanistan.

Dear Southern Arizonan,

Southern Arizona is home to thousands of active duty troops, military families, and veterans. This report highlights recent legislative efforts in Congress to support them.

While working on these funding and policy proposals, I have continued to travel to war zones to get a first-hand perspective on how Congress can best assist members of the U.S. Armed Forces during, and after, their service.

In April, I traveled to Afghanistan and Pakistan with a bipartisan group of lawmakers led by the House Subcommittee on Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities. We met with troops and top U.S. military and government officials in both of these volatile countries. This trip confirmed for me that we have neglected our mission in this part of the Middle East and that critical counterinsurgency operations are in jeopardy.

For years we have known that some of the most organized and dangerous terrorists in the world operate in Afghanistan. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I believe that developing a strong multi-national strategy to stabilize this nation should be the Pentagon's top priority.

Sincerely, *Gabrielle Giffords*

Contact Information

Tucson District Office

1661 N. Swan, Suite 112
Tucson, AZ 85712
Phone: (520) 881-3588
Fax: (520) 322-9490

Cochise County District Office

77 Calle Portal, Suite B-160
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
Phone: (520) 459-3115
Fax: (520) 459-5419

Washington, DC Office

U.S. House of Representatives
502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2542
Fax: (202) 225-0378

www.giffords.house.gov

Active Duty Legislative Priorities

Serving those who serve our nation

★ **New Skills for 21st Century Warfare.** In the fight against terrorism and Islamic extremism, it is more important than ever that our service men and women have cross-cultural competency and language proficiency to use during missions in the Middle East. That is why Congresswoman Giffords introduced the **National Security Culture and Language Training Act (H.R. 6037)**, which would provide the Secretary of Defense with the authority to establish an incentive bonus to encourage individuals in officer training programs such as the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), and the service academies, to engage in the study of “critical” foreign languages and cultural education. *Important provisions were included in the National Defense Authorization Act.*

★ **Tax Relief for Soldiers** As the Representative of thousands of military families, Congresswoman Giffords believes that it is unacceptable for our tax code to penalize our troops for serving in combat. That is why she introduced the **Combat Troops Tax Relief Act (H.R. 3808)**, legislation that fixes a critical prevents military families from facing significantly higher tax bills this year. *Provisions passed the House on May 20, 2008.*

★ **A Pay Raise for Our Troops.** Congresswoman Giffords voted to pass legislation providing a well-earned 3.9% pay raise for our servicemen and women. *Included in the National Defense Authorization Act.*

Protecting Arizona’s National Guard at Home



Rep. Giffords and General Moasio discuss options for saving wing-level maintenance activities in the Guard.

Congresswoman Giffords fought successfully to prevent the Air Force from removing aircraft maintenance facilities from the 162nd Air National Guard Fighter Wing in Tucson. This would have led to the loss of more than 200 jobs.

“Dear Congresswoman Giffords,
I appreciate your advocacy and working with you to make sure our operation here retains the experienced manpower that is essential to maintaining a healthy aircraft fleet. Tremendous safety margins are a hallmark of the Air National Guard. We are determined to keep it that way.”

Brigadier General Rick Moasio, Commander of the 162nd Fighter Wing

Veterans Legislative Priorities

Providing for our veterans

★ **Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act (H.R. 5740).** A new GI bill for the 21st century that would provide full tuition at public universities and a living stipend for all servicemembers called to active duty service for at least 36 months since September 11, 2001. The current Montgomery GI Bill only covers 60-70% of the cost of attending a four year public college or university. *Co-sponsor; passed the House on May 15, 2008.*



As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Congresswoman Giffords questions General David Petraeus about the operations in Iraq.

★ **Montgomery GI Bill Educational Assistance Transferability Act (H.R. 5229).** This legislation would allow servicemembers to transfer unused GI Bill benefits to their spouse or children. *Co-sponsor; pending in Committee.*

★ **Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act (H.R. 579).** This bill would prohibit fee, premium, deductible or co-pay increases for retirees and servicemembers receiving TRICARE health benefits. *Co-sponsor; pending in Committee.*

★ **Keep Our Promise to America’s Military Retirees Act (H.R. 1222).** By ensuring that Southern Arizona’s retired military professionals receive the care that was promised to them when they entered military service, this bill would require the Department of Defense to offer a health care plan that



“Dear Rep. Giffords,
I served as an Infantry Mortarman in support of Army Special Operation Forces in Afghanistan in 2003. When I entered civilian life, I had a difficult time finding a competitive job.

I used all of my GI Bill on a community college education and, if not for the Veterans Administration extending my benefits, I would not have had enough money to complete my degree. I cannot continue my education at a 4-year university because the cost of tuition for one class a semester is \$1,400. I appreciate your support for the new GI Bill for people like me.”

Tommy Mendoza, Former Marine Corps Sergeant, Sierra Vista, AZ

If you are interested in receiving Congressional updates, please sign up for my e-newsletters at www.giffords.house.gov. These allow me to keep Southern Arizonans, like you, informed of the most recent activities in the House of Representatives and upcoming public forums I am sponsoring in the district.

allows military retirees and their families to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) program. Medicare Part B monthly premiums would be waived for military retirees if they entered military service prior to December 7, 1956. *Co-sponsor; pending in Committee.*

Tucson Citizen

Warriors need training in other cultures

By U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, April 30, 2008

If confirmed as the new commander of our military’s Central Command, Gen. David Petraeus will finally have the opportunity to apply his counterinsurgency strategy to the war against global terrorism. One of his greatest challenges will be finding a way to better prepare our troops for the non-conventional demands of this strategy while also maintaining the overall readiness of U.S. Armed Forces...

In the 21st Century, our troops will continue to be engaged in areas of the world quite different from our own. Most of our operations in the future are likely to involve enemies that do not have national borders or standing armies... This is why I am drafting legislation to increase the number of service men and women with these critical skills...

Success in the conflicts of the 21st Century requires well-educated, well-trained and adaptable warriors – men and women who are as comfortable speaking foreign languages and understanding diverse societies as they are in tracking down terrorists.



I would like to hear from you

1. What do you believe are the biggest challenges facing our military today?

2. How can the U.S. government improve services for our veterans?

3. Would you like to opt-in to receive e-mail updates from Congresswoman Giffords? Yes No

Email:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please cut out this survey, place in an envelope, and mail to the Tucson District Office, 1661 N. Swan, Suite 112 Tucson, AZ 85712