



Congressman

Gene Green

VETERANS REPORT

29 Congressional District of Texas

206

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your service to our country. We are proud of the commitment by our active service personnel and we remember the dedication of our veterans.

As our servicemen and women continue to serve in Iraq, our nation continues to mourn the loss of life and the injuries to our military personnel. I hope you will join me in praying for the families of those injured and lost in action. The injuries in combat are real, and the news coverage has brought the damage into our living rooms like never before.

The veteran's newsletter is published each year around Memorial Day to report on issues important to veterans and their families. Veterans' benefits and health care are important as we remember your service.

I visit our VA Medical Center often and earlier this year I visited our men and women stationed in Germany, Kuwait and Iraq. My intent was to thank and support our troops for their service and offer my assistance. Their commitment now and your commitment to our country make our freedom possible.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

ADMINISTRATION'S VA BUDGET LOOKS GRIM

The House of Representatives is considering the budget for fiscal year 2007. Time and time again the Administration's budget fails to provide for our veteran community. From health care for veterans to construction of new hospitals, this Administration has cut funding across the board. I intend to oppose this budget when it is considered by the full House.

The Administration's 2007 budget proposes new increases in the cost of veterans health care by raising the cost for 2.2 million veterans. A cost that over five years will cost veterans more than \$2 billion and will result in disenfranchising 213,000 veterans from the system.

(Continued on Page 2)

Congressman Gene Green invites you to a

Veterans Forum

Saturday May 20, 2006

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

American Legion Post #586

708 E Parker Road

Houston, TX 77076-3413

Veterans will have an opportunity to visit with various veterans' service organizations. Information will be available on healthcare, disability and pension benefits, how to start a small business, buy a home and purchase property.

OFFICE ADDRESSES

256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy .E
Suite 29
Houston, TX 77060
281-999-5879
Fax: 281-999-5716

2335 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-1688
Fax: 202-225-9903

11811 I-10 East, Suite 430
Houston, TX, 77029
713-330-0761
Fax: 713-330-0807

10 North Gaillard
Baytown, TX 77520
281-420-0502
Fax: 281-420-0585

ADMINISTRATION VA BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

Without proper funding for health care, we are letting down millions of men and women that provided us with the freedom that we now enjoy. Unfortunately that's exactly what this Administration has done. It has provided \$106 million more than last year which is \$3.5 billion less than what veterans services have said is needed. This affects the number of medical personnel serving our veterans, which would mean a drop of about 3,000 employees, mostly nurses.

Not only will nurses be affected by this budget, but so will veteran nursing homes. With \$351 million in cuts for veterans nursing homes, there will be 28,000 fewer veteran patients receiving treatment.

This Administration's budget doesn't just impact our veterans but it also puts a tremendous burden on their families. The 2007 budget refuses to end the Disabled Veterans' Tax, which forces disabled military retirees to give up one dollar of their pension for every dollar of disability pay they receive. It also fails to end the Military Family's Tax, which actually penalizes most widows of fallen soldiers by taking their survivor benefits if they receive benefits for their spouse's death due to service-connected injury. To make matters worse the Administration's budget fails to include funding for an increase in death benefits for families of servicemen and women that were killed in action.

We are a nation at war, and I have visited our troops in Iraq, I have visited our injured at our VA hospitals and I have grieved with families of those that have fallen and I know that they deserve better. These men and women, past and present, answered the call when our country needed them and now it is our turn to answer their call. They deserve exactly what they gave, the very best, and this is why I can not in good conscious vote in favor of this Administration's budget. Rest assured that I will continue to work with other Members of Congress that disagree with this budget resolution and we will continue to fight for the rights of our brave men and women that fought and are fighting for our country.

NEW CLINIC, EFFICIENT SERVICE:

5TH PRIMARY CARE CLINIC OPENS

One of the most prestigious VA medical centers in the nation resides here in our community. The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) has been serving our veterans since WWII. It began as a Navy Hospital.

Serving millions of our servicemen and women throughout the history of this great institution, the MEDVAMC has suffered from veterans having to wait long hours to receive primary care appointments.

In order to combat these problems, the DeBakey VA Medical Center, began to open Primary Care Clinics to assist in the influx of veterans seeking primary care.

In March of this year, MEDVAMC opened a fifth Primary Care Clinic inside the main facilities of the medical center. Located at 2002 Holcombe Blvd, the additional clinic will serve to alleviate the long waiting period those veterans have had to endure in order to receive primary care appointments. With this addition to the DeBakey Medical Center, MEDVAMC will be able to continue to provide the best possible health care to our nation's veterans.

MEDVAMC also offers free Valet Parking at its front entrance. Just show your VA I.D. card or an appointment letter and they will take care of your car. If using the facilities parking lot, there are two shuttle vans that run from 7:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday that will assist you in getting to the hospital.



Congressman Gene Green meets and discusses the ground situation in Iraq with Brigadier General "Bomber" Milstead of the 2nd Marine Air Wing, during his Congressional Delegation trip to Iraq

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

According to the Department of Labor, the number of service members leaving active duty is likely to increase by 200,000 yearly. To improve employment and training services for veterans and to encourage employers to hire them, Congress passed the Jobs for Veterans Act in 2002, which reformed the Department of Labor's Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) program.

The DVOP is intended to develop job and training opportunities for veterans, with special emphasis on veterans with service-connected disabilities. DVOP provides direct services to veterans enabling them to be competitive in the labor market. They provide outreach and offer assistance to disabled and other veterans by promoting community and employer support for employment and training opportunities, including apprenticeship and on-the-job training. DVOP specialists work with employers, veterans' organizations, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Defense, and community-based organizations to link veterans with appropriate jobs and training opportunities.

The WorkSource serves as the VA's one-stop career center in our area, and with multiple locations throughout our district, our office can help find one close to you. The WorkSource can help you assess how skills you acquired in the military can help your job prospects, figure out what skills are in demand, and determine where you can get those skills or improve the skills you already have. The WorkSource can also help you find financial aid for education. Please attend our veteran's forum, contact our office, or contact the WorkSource at 1-888-469-JOBS (5627) for more information about training and job search assistance available for veterans. If you cannot attend our veteran's forum, please contact any of our offices and we can put you in touch with the location closest to you. You can find out more information about the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor's programs at www.hirevetsfirst.gov. Here is a list of WorkSource locations in our District:

WorkSource Locations in 29th District

Greenspoint

The Bridgewood II Building
652 N Sam Houston Pkwy E Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77060
Contact: Roy Letbetter
Voice: (281) 260-2950
Fax: (281) 405-0623
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

Northeast

3500 Little York Road, Suite A-1 Houston, Texas 77093
Contact: Aura Ruiz
Voice: (713) 697-3437
Fax: (713) 697-4063
7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday

Northline

4400 North Freeway, Suite 201
Houston, Texas 77022
Contact: Jeff Crain
Voice: (713) 692-7755
Fax: (713) 692-1973
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

Northshore

14355 E Wallisville Road
Houston, Texas 77049
Contact: Sandra Dever
Voice: (281) 458-1155
Fax: (281) 459-2768
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

Pasadena

103 Pasadena Town Square Mall
Pasadena, Texas 77506
Contact: Paul Van Ast
Voice: (713) 472-1608
Fax: (713) 472-1275
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

Baytown

6952 Garth Road
Baytown, Texas 77521
Contact: Anthony Eagleton
Voice: (281) 837-0079
Fax: (281) 428-2705
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

IRAQ CODEL

In December, Congressman Green joined several of his colleagues on a Congressional Delegation trip (CODEL) to Iraq, Kuwait, and Germany. The purpose of the CODEL was to meet with military officials about the outcome of the Iraqi elections in December, observe and receive briefings on the progress of the education system in Iraq, and visit American troops stationed in the region. Congressman Green met with a group of Marines and members of the Air Force from Texas while he was in Iraq and Kuwait.

The delegation also stopped at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany on the return flight. Ramstein AFB is home to a large military hospital that treats many of the troops injured in Iraq. Congressman Green was able to visit with troops being treated there, and handed out phone cards and Christmas ornaments.



Congressman Gene Green met with Marines from Texas and discussed their mission in Iraq.

VETERAN LEGISLATION IN THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

The 109th Congress has many issues important to veterans and their families. Here you will find a list of measures Congressman Green has cosponsored that will have significant impacts on veterans:

Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act of 2005
-HR 515 - This bill would make veterans health care funding mandatory (currently it is discretionary, and can be cut by budget writers) with yearly increases based on the number of veterans enrolled with the VA and would account for inflation.

Status: This bill has been referred to the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2005

- HR 303 - This bill would authorize immediate implementation of full concurrent receipt benefits for retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for retirees with regular or Guard/Reserve retirements.

Status: The bill has been referred to the House Veterans Affairs and House Armed Services Committees.

Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act

- HR 808 - This bill would repeal provisions which require the offset of amounts paid in dependency and indemnity compensation from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for the surviving spouses of former military personnel who are entitled to military pay or who would be entitled to retired pay except for being under 60 years of age.

Status: This bill has been referred to the House Armed Services Committee.

Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2005

- HR 23 - This bill directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a monthly benefit of \$1,000 to honorably-discharged veterans of the U.S. Merchant Marine who served between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946 (or to their survivors). This benefit includes service in the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service, and exempts benefits paid under this Act from taxation.

Status: This bill has been referred to the House Veterans Affairs and House Ways and Means Committee.

Resuming Education After Defense Service Act of 2005

- HR 772 - This bill would provide educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill to members of the Selected Reserve who served on active duty in the Armed Forces between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2006 for at least two years.

Status: This bill has been referred to the House Veterans Affairs and House Ways and Means Committee.



Congressman Gene Green meets airmen and women from Texas stationed in Kuwait, and discusses their mission supplying troops in Iraq.

United States Congress
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business

(GENE GREEN SIGNATURE)

MC
Resorted Standard
W/S Carrier Route