



# CONGRESSMAN GUS M. BILIRAKIS

SERVING VETERANS IN FLORIDA'S 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



## A MESSAGE TO OUR VETERANS

It is an honor to represent you in Congress and to have the opportunity to work on veterans issues. Our veterans deserve the best, and it is my job to work toward achieving that goal.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee Veterans' Affairs Task Force, I have made it a priority to convey the need for better benefits and opportunities for our nation's veterans, and I have introduced legislation to improve veterans' benefits and services. I am proud that many of my bills have been signed into law or have been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.



I have also fought to bring additional health care resources to Florida by working with local and national VA officials to expand the Pasco County VA Outpatient Clinic which will help bring added health care services, such as dental care, to area veterans. I am also leading the efforts to bring an outpatient health clinic to Hillsborough County veterans.

My office provides many important services for our veterans. From providing assistance with VA claims to working with federal agencies to solve complex issues, this resource is available to all veterans and their families in the Ninth Congressional District.

Sincerely,

## VETERANS LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

**H.R. 1580** - Creates a DOD-wide Ombudsman function to answer and assist all patient and family questions on a wide variety of issues. *(Incorporated into Public Law 110-181)*

**H.R. 89** - Eliminates the 20-year requirement for the Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Program. *(Incorporated into Public Law 110-181)*

**H.R. 2027** - Guarantees a minimum of 3.5 percent military pay raise for FY2008. *(Incorporated into Public Law 110-181)*

**H.R. 5481** - Guarantees a minimum of 3.9 percent military pay raise for FY2009. *(Passed U.S. House of Representatives as part of H.R. 5658)*

**H. Con. Res. 295** - Expresses deep appreciation to military families for support of their loved ones on active duty. *(Passed U.S. House of Representatives)*

**H.R. 704** - Allows a widow to remarry at age 55 and retain her Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits.

**H.R. 1197** - Expands presumptions for disability compensation for former POWs.

**H.R. 303** - Provides full concurrent receipt for those disabled military retirees rated 40 percent or less disabled.

**H.R. 843** - Provides a 50 percent tax credit for compensation paid during the period employees are performing service as members of the Ready Reserve or the National Guard.

**H.R. 844** - Provides a 10 percent tax credit for unpaid compensation to the employers of members of the National Guard and Reserves.

**H.R. 2319** - Establishes a mail-order pharmacy pilot program providing a zero co-payment for participants.

**H.R. 6181** - Provides current and former service members with a one-time tax credit toward the purchase of a primary residence.

## Assistance Offered to Veterans in the 9th Congressional District

**\* VA Compensation & Pension Claims \* Survivor Benefits \* Healthcare Enrollment & Treatment Issues \* Obtaining Military Medical, Personnel and Discharge Records \***

*For more information please contact Congressman Bilirakis' Palm Harbor Office (727) 773-2871 or visit online at [www.bilirakis.house.gov/vets](http://www.bilirakis.house.gov/vets)*

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