

CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT

KEEPING PROMISES TO VETERANS

- **Passed an Amendment to Help Veteran Owned Small Businesses:** provides new assistance to disadvantaged small businesses, including those owned by service-disabled veterans. The amendment to the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act (H.R. 2965) prioritizes Small Business Administration outreach grants for organizations with the most knowledge and experience in helping similarly disadvantaged small businesses receive aid (*H.AMDT.288 to H.R.2965, 7/8/2009*)
- **Record Funding Increase for Veterans' Medical Care:** Supported the largest funding increase for veterans' health care in history, including \$3 billion to provide better care for those with traumatic brain injuries and other mental health needs. Member, Veterans' Mental Health Caucus. (*RC# 498, 6/15/07*).
- **Assistance for Wounded Warriors:** Supported legislation to expedite and improve the benefits and claims process; require the DOD and VA to establish a single medical information system; and enhance oversight of military medical facilities (*RC # 208, 3/28/07*).
- **Improving Responsiveness to Employment Needs:** After commissioning a study of problems veterans face in return to the civilian workforce from active duty, authored and passed legislation to improve the government's responsiveness to veterans' job needs (*H.R.1632, 3/21/07; H.R. 1315, 7/30/07*).
- **Taking Care of Surviving Military Spouses :** Co-sponsors a bill that would increase the monthly amounts paid under the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance to surviving spouses of deceased service members who are denied the full amount of their annuity under the Survivor Benefit Program due to the offset required by the receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (*H.R. 775, MTD Petition No: 111-10, 3/15/2010*)
- **Providing Veterans Employment Assistance:** Supports a bill that expands job training, placement services and entrepreneurship opportunities for veterans who may otherwise have fallen through the cracks of existing programs (*HR5298, 5/13/2010*)
- **Protecting Veteran Healthcare:** Cosponsors a bill to ensure appropriate treatment of Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense health programs (*H.R. 4894, 3/20/2010*)
- **Creating a Fair Retirement System:** Supports legislation to repair the gap in eligibility for National Guard and Reserve members to receive credit towards early retirement by including any active duty service since September 11th, 2001. Current eligibility only applies to service following the enactment of the 2008 NDAA on January 28, 2008. Their courage and dedication throughout this transition to a more active duty role should be reflected in their retirement benefit system (*H.R. 208, 1/6/2009*)
- **Reducing Prescription Drug Costs:** Fought to protect veterans from significant increases in the cost of their prescription drugs driven by direct government price negotiation and proposed fee hikes (*RC# 22,1/12/07; H.R. 4949, 3.29.06*).
- **Comprehensive Memorial Benefits:** Enacted legislation that expands and makes permanent veterans' right to receive government-furnished grave markers and headstones to honor their courageous service. Also fought to protect the families of deceased veterans from protestors

who refuse to honor the solemn occasion of a military funeral (*H.R. 358, 1/9/07; P.L. 110-157; RC# 129, 5/9/06; P.L. 109-228*).

- **Recognizing our brave Korean War Veterans:** Successfully helped pass legislation that adds the National Korean War Armistice Day, July 27, to the short list of calendar dates that the American flag should be especially displayed on buildings, honoring the 6.8 million Americans who served during the Korean War period (*H.R. 2632, RC# 604, 7/21/2009*)
- **Supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day:** helped pass a resolution calling for the observance of September 16th as American Legion Day, to highlight the goals and ideals of the 90-year-old veterans service organization. (*Hres679, passed by voice vote, 9/15/2009*)
- **Expressing Appreciation for Service:** Successfully helped pass an effort expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the House of Representatives for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II. (*H.Res. 259, MTR passed without objection 6/2/2009*)
- **Commemorating our heroes:** Signed onto a resolution expressing that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued to honor our Nation's disabled veterans (*Hconres114, 4/29/2009*)
- **Concurrent Receipt:** Cosponsored legislation to allow the surviving spouses of deceased service members to collect their retirement pay, which would give them the ability to receive both benefits instead of having one benefit reduced by the amount of the other (Gold Star Wives). (*H.R. 775, 1/28/2009*)
- **Housing Relief for Military Spouses:** Cosponsored legislation preventing a military spouse from incurring tax penalties or losing their right to vote in their home state while accompanying them on orders. (*H.R. 1182, 2/25/2009*)
- **GI Bill:** Helped introduce and voted for an improved and expanded GI bill to bring critical new education benefits, including tuition assistance and stipends for textbooks and housing, to those who serve. (*H.R. 5740, 4/9/08; RC#432, 6.19.08*)
- **Veterans Resource Fairs:** Created and hosted 3 fairs across the district to connect veterans with the many benefits and services available to them.

“Our nation enjoys freedom and liberty because of the great sacrifice, dedication, and determination of our veterans and their families; today we salute them. Our gratitude can never measure up to their sacrifice, but we will never forget everything they do to ensure our safety and security.”

-Congressman Dave Reichert