

United States Congressman Bill Flores
Representing the 17th District of Texas



Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act

As a part of our ongoing duty to fulfill our commitments to our nation's veterans, I would like to update you to some new opportunities made available by the [Veterans Opportunity to Work \(VOW\) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011](#), which I cosponsored and was recently signed into law.

The [VOW to Hire Heroes Act](#) provides our nation's service members with the resources and assistance necessary to find good paying private-sector jobs upon their return to civilian life. Towards that end, there are several aspects of this law that I would like to bring to your attention which benefit both the individual veteran seeking employment and each respective employer. Please take the time to review and pass along this pertinent information.

- The [Veterans Retraining Assistance Program \(VRAP\)](#) will pay \$1,473 a month for 12 months to veterans between 35 and 60 years of age to attend a community college or technical school to train for a high demand job. This is only open to veterans who do not receive concurrent VA educational benefits and are not enrolled in a federal or state job-training program. Assistance under this benefit program ends on March 31, 2014. To learn more [CLICK HERE](#).
- The VOW to Hire Heroes Act also extended and expanded the tax credit for hiring certain qualified veterans. Through the [Work Opportunity Tax Credit \(WOTC\)](#), for-profit employers may receive tax credits as high as \$9,600 per qualified veteran or up to \$6,240 for qualified tax-exempt organizations. The WOTC only applies to new employees who must start work on or after November 22, 2011, and before January 1, 2013. To learn more [CLICK HERE](#).
- The law also includes a [Special Employer Incentives \(SEI\)](#) program, which provides eligible veterans an opportunity to obtain training and practical hands-on experience. Employers who participate in hiring veterans through this program receive reimbursement of up to 50 percent of the veteran's salary for up to six months. Veterans who participate receive immediate income and benefits as an employee, and the opportunity for continued employment following successful completion of the SEI program. To learn more [CLICK HERE](#).

For more information on these and other programs made available through the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, please visit www.benefits.va.gov/VOW.