

STANDING UP FOR WISCONSIN VETERANS

Since the beginning of American history the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines of our Armed Forces have stepped up to defend our freedoms when called on to risk their lives to make our country great. Regardless of what one thinks about the wars that they fought in, we all must agree that our men and women in uniform have responded to the call of duty and performed with honor and dignity. They are our he-

roes and for this, we should show our gratitude not just on Memorial Day but everyday. I will continue to work on behalf of our service members and veterans to ensure they are taken care of both on and off the battlefield. And my office will continue to do everything we can to assist the over 60,000 veterans in western Wisconsin.



Ron welcomes Wisconsin soldiers from the 127th Infantry to Volk Field as they return home after serving overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Ron discusses veteran health benefits with a member of the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division.

New G.I. Bill

I was pleased Congress was able to come together to pass the **Post-9/11 G.I. Bill** in 2008, providing higher education benefits for service members who served since 9/11. Educating our nation's veterans is not only an investment in our troops, but our economy as well. Last Congress, we improved these benefits further by expanding the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill to cover the **full cost of college for all children of fallen service members**. I am proud to support the higher education of our veterans and their families.

Improving the Transition to Civilian Life

We need to make certain that families have the tools they need for a smooth transition when loved ones return home. For this reason I supported the **Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010**. This law will enhance veterans employment and work training opportunities, address veterans housing issues, upgrade disability, insurance and survivor programs, and also require a comprehensive study of best treatment practices for chronic multi-symptom illness in Gulf War veterans.

Helping Military Surviving Spouses

Our soldiers make enormous sacrifices for our nation, and unfortunately some are called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy. These men and women are nothing short of heroes and deserve our utmost respect and honor. Not only does our nation suffer a loss, but their families are faced with the reality of a lost mother, father, or spouse. For this reason, I have once again co-sponsored the **Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act**, to end the practice of reducing surviving spouses' retirement pensions by the amount of any death benefits they receive.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

1406 Longworth Building

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M.C

Presorted Standard

ECRWSS

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Ten years ago I authored and Congress unanimously passed legislation creating the Veterans History Project (VHP), which has since allowed veterans to record over **74,000 stories** and preserve them in the Library of Congress for future generations. I look forward to the next 10 years of VHP as we now have a new generation of war veterans coming home who have courageously served overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. Please consider recording your story and preserving it for future generations!

- ✓ VHP is the largest grassroots oral history project in U.S. history
- ✓ VHP volunteers have collected more U.S. veterans' histories than anyone else in the world including: 46,000 WWII, 12,500 Vietnam, 9,000 Korea, 2,300 Persian Gulf, 1,500 Iraq/Afghanistan and 325 WWI
- ✓ 19 million war veterans live in the U.S. - over 428,000 in WI.

If you, a family member, or a friend would like to record your story or if you'd like more information on the program, please contact Mark in my office at 1-888-442-8040 or visit my website at www.kind.house.gov. You can also find information at the Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov/vets.

Struggling With a Service-Related Problem?

My office is here to serve you. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to be in touch. Here are just a few of the issues we can help with:

Accessing Education Benefits | Obtaining Disability Compensation

Replacing Lost Medals or Medals Earned, But Not Received



Ron sends off a WWII Marine veteran for the La Crosse Freedom Honor Flight.