

# **CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT**

## **KEEPING PROMISES TO VETERANS**

- ◆ **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. *(RC# 498, 6/15/07).*
- ◆ **Improved Benefits for Active Duty Troops:** Voted to increase service members' life insurance to \$400,000; provide uninsured reservists with TRICARE health coverage; and increase funding for the Montgomery GI Bill education benefit *(RC# 161, 5/5/05; RC# 665, 12/19/05).*
- ◆ **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).*
- ◆ **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 *(H.R. 358, 1/9/07; P.L. 110-157).*
- ◆ **Concurrent Receipt:** Voted to speed up the process of permitting veterans to simultaneously receive the military retirement pay and VA benefits that they deserve *(RC# 222, 5/25/05).*
- ◆ **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).*
- ◆ **Respect for Fallen Heroes:** Fought to protect the families of deceased veterans from protestors who refuse to honor the solemn occasion of a military funeral *(H.R. 5037, 3/29/06, RC# 129, 5/9/06; P.L. 109-228).*
- ◆ **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).*

*“Thank you for your compassion for veterans and their families.”*

– Military Order of the Purple Heart

## Congressman Reichert has supported veterans' legislation that...

### **...Improves Medical Care**

- Protects veterans from increasing premiums and TRICARE fees (*H.R. 4949, 3.29.06*).
- Protects veterans from increasing copayments for hospice care (*H.R. 2623, 7.30.07*).
- Holds the V.A. to a 30-day standard for processing claims and administering veterans' medical care (*H.R. 2735, 11.14.06*).
- Implements a long-term care program for veterans suffering from traumatic brain injuries and increases funding for research, education, and assistance (*RC #413, 5.23.07*).
- Implements a comprehensive program to reduce the incidence of veterans' suicide (*RC#174, 3.21.07, P.L. 110-110*).
- Extends chiropractic care to veterans (*RC #412, 5.23.07*).

### **...Provides Seamless Transitions**

- Expands GI Bill education benefits for Guardsmen and Reservists (*H.R. 3882, 11.14.07*).
- Establishes on-campus coordinators to help veterans apply their GI Bill benefits to pursue higher education (*H.R. 5143, 2.7.08; RC #40, 2.7.08*).
- Assists states in connecting veterans with benefits and services (*RC #410, 5.23.07*).
- Entitles any permanently disabled veteran to vocational rehabilitation benefits (*RC #414, 5.23.07*).
- Helps homeless veterans transition to permanent housing and participate in community reintegration programs (*H.R. 2874, 7.30.07; H.R. 3665, 11.10.05*).
- Offers adaptive housing assistance to families of disabled veterans to retrofit their homes (*H.R. 1315, 7.30.07*).

### **...Recognizes Service and Sacrifice**

- Increases funding for the operation and maintenance of state veterans' cemeteries (*H.Res.855, 12.11.07; P.L. 110-157*).
- Preserves the sanctity of veterans' memorials and authorizes the construction of veterans memorials around the country (*RC #989, 10.23.07; RC #119, 3.5.07; RC #480, 9.26.06*).
- Supports commemorative coins and postage stamps for disabled veterans (*H.Con.Res.176, 6.27.07; RC #345, 5.15.07*).

### **...Expands Compensation and Benefits**

- Increases compensation rates for veterans with service-connected disabilities (*RC#176, 3.21.07, P.L. 110-111*).
- Increases pay for hardship duty, reenlistment bonuses, and the family separation allowance (*H.R. 2735, 5.19.05*).
- Extends preferential tax treatment to veterans and their families (*RC #1042, 11.6.07*).
- Protects veterans from dishonest and predatory lending (*H.R. 97, 7.28.05; RC #324, 6.28.05*).
- Protects veterans and soldiers from fraudulent businesses who seek to profit from their service (*H.R. 269, 1.24.07*).
- Protects veterans from identity theft (*H.R. 5835, 11.10.05*).
- Gives priority to veteran-owned businesses in the awarding of federal contracts and small business lending (*H.R. 3082, 7.24.06; H.R. 2366, 6.18.07*).