

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. Member, Veterans' Mental Health Caucus. (RC# 498, 6/15/07).
- ◆ **New 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)
- ◆ **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).
- ◆ **Improved Benefits for Active Duty Troops:** Voted to increase service members' life insurance to \$400,000 and provide uninsured reservists with TRICARE health coverage (RC# 161, 5/5/05; RC# 665, 12/19/05).
- ◆ **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).
- ◆ **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).
- ◆ **Veterans Resource Fairs:** Created and hosted 3 fairs across the district to connect veterans with the many benefits and services available to them.
- ◆ **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*).