

AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

American Legion - Post 4
P. O. Box 14
Pocatello, ID 83204-0014

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
Pocatello, ID 83201
Permit No. 100

**THE AUGUST MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY THE 8th.**

August 2007

American Legion Post 4
P. O. Box 14
Pocatello, ID 83204-0014
<http://www.americanlegionpost4.com>

Dear Post 4 Legionnaire:

The 89th American Legion State Convention was held here in Pocatello on the 13th through the 15th of July, and is history now. The Convention was well attended by local and by out of area veterans and their families. Joe Foruria, the Area B Vice Commander was elected State Commander for 2008.

The American Legion National Commander, Paul A. Morin, visited with those attending for four days. He visited our local veterans nursing home and held a news conference with the local media. He visited with Post member Beverly Bistline at her home in Quail Ridge. The visit was enjoyed by all, and the Commander gave her a small gift and wished her well.

If you did not get to visit with the Commander, you missed out as he is one of the Real People that you will meet in the American Legion.

There are some Convention books left, and if any of you want a souvenir please let us know by telephone, email, or come down to the meeting on Wednesday, August 8 where copies will be available.

The straw cowboy hats are in stock now, and if you wanted one come on down to the meeting. We have all the hardware to set them up and look good! We also have the bolo ties with the gold eagle on them available for \$5.00. They look great with the hat!

Our membership year is off and running. We have about 150 members already renewed for 2008. The new membership count is now at 45, and we have a lot of "I Got One" pins to give out at this month's meeting. We need one new member from as many of you as possible. The yearly cost is \$35 and joining now will pay the new member up through the END of 2008. If you need an application, let us know and we will get them to you. The easiest way to pick up the membership applications is to COME TO THE MEETING! The Post Falls Legion members don't think we can overtake them and be first in the state. All we need to do this is to get more new members from all of your efforts. If you need help, call me and we will help you out.

Post 4 helped out with the POW/MIA Awareness rodeo this past weekend, and many members helped with the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall which was set up 24 hours a day to provide public access. The Wall was a great success and had a very good turnout.

The Riders did a great job with the parking project with only 8 members working. That took a lot of energy for all the members that participated in the extremely hot weather. Thank you to the Riders for a Job Well Done.

The state organizational meeting is in Boise on August 18th, and if anyone wants to go let me know. It's an all-day trip and we just might have some fun along the way.

The August fishing derby is coming up on Sunday, the 26th at FMC park and is open to all the boys and girls 15 and under. Family members are welcome. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and lots of fun are provided free of charge. Starting time is 11 AM.

The American Legion National Convention will be in Reno NV this year on August 25 through the 29th, and some of us are going. If you need anything, let us know and we will try to get it for you. You MUST be registered to attend the Convention.

We are going into the 2007-2008 year with a bright future for our Post and the American Legion here in Pocatello, Idaho. Thanks for all the work some of you have been doing, and we hope that more members will step up and try to help us in the future. We could use four hours of time from each of you if YOU can give the time!!

Mike S. Schow

American Legion Post 4 Officers

Commander - Mike Schow 234-4914
1st Vice Commander - Winford Lomon 232-8919
2nd Vice Commander - Jim Keezer 232-4821
3rd Vice Commander - John Rogers 232-4843
Chaplain - Dave DeGarlis 238-1247
Sergeant At Arms - open
Adjutant - Al Gibson 233-2700 (h) or 201-0539 (cell)
Newsletter - Al Gibson
Service Officer - Zach Rodriguez - 406-1068
Treasurer - Mike Schow
Sons of the American Legion Rev Jim Jones 251-4708

American Legion Riders Officers

Director Frank Smith 317-1424
Ass't Director John White 681-0198
Secretary Al Gibson 233-2700 (h) or 201-0539 (cell)
Treasurer Al Gibson
Historian Tom Janson 226-6653
Sergeant At Arms Bill Head 238-1467
Membership Wade Beery 223-6228
POW/MIA Liaison Phil Meek 241-3349
Purchasing Agent Jim Humble 237-0690
Road Captain Bill Head

EMAIL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

TO; algibson@bulldogs.com

Meetings for Service Organizations

1st Thurs. **Fleet Reserve Assoc.** 7 PM
2nd Mon. **Purple Heart** 1PM / **VVA** 7 PM
2nd Wed. **American Legion** 7 PM
2nd Thurs. **NCOA** 6:30 PM
3rd Mon. **BCVMA** 7 PM
3rd Wed. **VFW & Auxiliary** 7 PM
4th Wed. **MCL Det. 698** 7 PM
4th Thurs. **DAV** 6:30 PM
Last Mon. **American Legion Auxiliary** 4 PM
POW/MIA - Fri - Aug 17, 7 PM at Red Lion Inn
MAC - Fri - Aug 10, 1130 at Memorial Bldg
melissah@co.bannock.id.us for **MAC** info
DAV Van Schedule: Call 208-221-0362

American Legion Internet Addresses

American Legion Post 4, Pocatello, ID
<http://www.americanlegionpost4.com>

American Legion Riders, Post 4, Pocatello, ID
<http://www.idaholegionriders.com>

American Legion, Idaho State, Boise, ID
<http://idlegion.home.mindspring.com>

American Legion, National
<http://www.legion.org>

VA Contact Numbers

Bannock County Vet Svcs. Melissa J. Hartman
Courthouse Annex Cnty. Vet. Svcs. Coord
130 N. 6th, Pocatello 83201 Ph. 236-7411
melissah@co.bannock.id.us

Idaho Div. of Vet. Svcs. Deborah A. Harmon
Office of Veterans Advocacy SE Idaho Veterans
Idaho State Veterans Home Service Officer
1957 Alvin Ricken Dr. 208-236-6358
Pocatello 83201

Poc. VA Outpatient Clinic 208-232-6214

Pocatello Vet Center [Counseling] 208-232-0316

SLC VA Hospital 800-613-4012
Boise VA Regional Office 800-827-1000

Veterans Affairs Phil Clifton
Vocational Rehabilitation 208-478-9866
800-509-8547

We support the Yellow Ribbon campaign to recognize homecoming veterans. Contact John Rogers 232-4843

Dates Of Interest

August 8; Post 4 meeting at Bannock County Memorial Building, 7 PM

August 26; Sunday Fishing Derby at FMC Park for children 15 and under. 11 AM to 3 PM Volunteers needed.

NOTE: This newsletter plus attachments containing more information for veterans can be received electronically or viewed on our Post 4 web site.

PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL) MEMBERSHIP COST:

Below is the Life Membership cost for American Legion Post 4. Find the column with your age, then go down to the cost. You'll never have to worry about another dues increase by enrolling for PUFL Membership. Full payment is not required, just 10% down which includes the 2007 dues, and the balance is paid over one year and is interest free. The table below is for the \$35 membership. Your age is on the top 2 lines, PUFL cost on the third.

NOTE: May 1st 2007 is the effective date for the new \$35 per year membership rate.

-24	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85+
\$35/yr	- 29	-34	-39	-44	-49	-54	-59	-64	-69	-74	-79	-84	
\$1219	1160	1095	1024	946	862	772	679	585	493	406	325	253	206

Newsletter Mailing: The August 2007 Post 4 newsletter will be sent out electronically in PDF format to all those members who've asked for it to be delivered in that fashion. Sign up for the electronic newsletter by sending an email to "algibson@bulldogs.com".

Disabled Veterans Fishing Program; Web site is <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>

American Legion Riders; The majority of the Post 4 ALR participated in our assignment of managing parking at the recent POW-MIA rally. Because the Moving Wall was there, quite a few older folks that you normally would not see at such an event showed up at the rally. We ran out of parking several times, but the riders handled the situation and created spots for those in need. The entire event went off without a hitch in the parking areas. The riders were thanked by Wall event organizer Steve Brown, and congratulated for a job well done by Post Commander Mike Schow. A fund raiser ride was planned early in July for a trip to Mesa Falls, where a hamburger BBQ was planned. But due to the drought, the forest is under fire alerts and the ride will likely be postponed till September or early October. Contact names and phone numbers are listed in this newsletter. You must be a member of the American Legion to join the Riders, and you get a **FREE** email address of "(your name)[@idaholegionriders.com](mailto:(your name)@idaholegionriders.com)".

New Items on eBay: This is a fund-raiser, which should be convenient for everyone. What would you like to see available on eBay? With increased profits on the items we're offering, we're planning on increasing the number of items for sale. The web site is up and going strong. The web address is "<http://stores.ebay.com/americanlegionpost4>" or you can link to it from our web page.

DAV Van: A new date schedule for 2007 is available for anyone who needs one. Any veteran who has had problems getting a seat on the DAV van, or who would like to use the van because of the high fuel prices for their private vehicle, please contact the Post Officers or call Charley Smith, at 208-425-3891 or 251-2675.

Attendance Drawing; The drawing for the \$20 dinner prize is held at the end of each monthly meeting. You must attend to be eligible, and the entry form has been made a part of the Monthly Minutes distributed at each meeting, so you don't have to bring your newsletter and cut it up now.

Local Business Supporters In Pocatello;

Eclipse Printing at 156 S. 3rd Ave. will provide business cards for Legion members at \$35 for 500.

Grandpa's Coffee Shop at 3304 Poleline Rd. for coffee, food, conversations. Smokers welcome.

Inkjet Express at 3318 Poleline Rd. for supplies and printer cartridge refills.

Jones Guns & Antiques at 546 S. Main St. for military collectibles, uniforms, firearms, and antiques.

Local media coverage for the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall, the POW-MIA rally, and more

The links given below will let you see some really good local media coverage that we - the Veteran Community - have received lately. Just cut and paste the link into your browser window.

<http://www.idahostatejournal.com> Idaho State Journal newspaper, Pocatello, ID home page

http://www.idahostatejournal.com/slideshows/moving_wall/index.html

Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall display, POW-MIA Awareness Rally July 27 to 30, 2007, Pocatello, ID Bannock County Fairgrounds

<http://www.idahostatejournal.com/slideshows/soldiers/index.html>

1016th Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Award Ceremony July 14, 2007 Pocatello, ID Century High School auditorium

<http://www.idahostatejournal.com/slideshows/blake/index.html>

Sgt. Blake Stephens, Homecoming and memorial services May 2007 Pocatello, ID

<http://www.idahostatejournal.com/articles/2007/08/02/news/breaking/news04.txt>

Part 1 of 3 videos. Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall. Delivery and set up.

My three hours with the National Commander - commentary by Bob Holden

On the 13th of July, I had the pleasure of spending time with the American Legion National Commander, Paul A. Morin. Upon hearing about a lady WWII veteran living in one of Pocatello's assisted living homes (Quail Ridge), Commander Morin took time from a very tight schedule to make a personal visit to Beverly Bistline. Beverly could not believe that a man as busy as he must be, would take the time to visit with someone like her. She was so ill that day that she couldn't get up from her bed. When the Commander introduced himself to her you could see a sparkle in her eye, and a smile that she probably has not lost yet.

After leaving Beverly, we stopped at the Veterans home where he was given a tour of the home by Cary Hebdon. He was very impressed with our facility, and made several comments as to how well this home was being run by the entire staff. He also took time to visit with several residents.

I found this man to be a very caring man towards our vets. Many people in a position such as his do the things like he did that day for the publicity or a photo op. However, I found him to be a very genuine person. The American Legion will be losing a very good man when he steps down at our national convention. Needless to say, I enjoyed that 3 hours very much.

JPAC information of interest to all veterans (more information available on Post 4 web site)

On average, the military spends more than \$100 million a year to recover those still missing in action. The Joint POW / MIA Accounting Command or JPAC, is the group responsible for recovering military remains.

In all, there are 18 recovery teams that travel the globe and do DNA testing to return these men and women to their loved ones.

"They're probably the premiere lab in the world when it comes to this type of work - trying to get DNA and genetic results from skeletal remains," UNT Lab Director Dr. Art Eisenberg said.

Doctor Eisenberg is the Director of the DNA lab at the University of North Texas in Fort Worth, and he was also part of the group that originated the DNA identification process.

He said the military goes to painstaking lengths to bring MIA's home, but the hard part isn't always finding DNA, but finding the families.

JPAC officials said on average they identify six Americans a month. However, the entire recovery process could take years to complete, as they double and triple-check everything. Despite this new technology, not all servicemen and women can be found.

According to JPAC some 40,000 World War II vets are lost at sea. Plus, there are some extreme cases where a DNA sample is just too old and damaged to identify.

AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS - POST 4

1. The "**I GOT ONE**" club is growing stronger by the day. All you need to do is get one new membership in the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the Legion. It is that simple. You can say you've done your best to keep our organization growing. You will also receive a pin designed especially for members of this Club. If you get one person for each, you will receive the TRIFECTA pin.

WE CAN DO IT!! THERE ARE OVER 9,000 VETERANS IN BANNOCK COUNTY!!!

LET'S FIND THEM AND SIGN THEM UP!

IF YOU NEED HELP, CALL ANY OFFICER LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

2. **40/8 CLUB** - This is a group that has fun!!! Contact the Commander for an application.

3. **WESTERN CAVALRY HATS**: Black hats with gold trim and insignia. \$35. Worth a salute anywhere! This is very helpful as a conversation point in recruiting. Contact any Officer to order one. Lots of Black Hats showing at Wed. Meeting. Looking Good!

CONTINUOUS COMMUNITY AND VETERANS PROGRAMS:

4. **FLAG EDUCATION,**

5. **EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS,**

6. **FOOD CONVOY,**

7. **BOYS STATE,**

8. **BOY SCOUTS,** and

9. **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL.**

If you see a program that you would be interested in, **PLEASE VOLUNTEER** to help. We need your help and community support in these very worthwhile activities.

Some retirees will no longer pay SBP premiums in 2008

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFRNS) – Participants in the Uniformed Services Survivor Benefit Plan for retired military members now have a new milestone to mark on their calendars.

Effective October 1, 2008, SBP participants who reach 70 years of age and have made 360 payments (30 years), will no longer have to pay premiums for continued SBP coverage and will be placed in "Paid-up SBP" status.

Paid-up SBP provisions were mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 1999. The law also established a paid-up status, also beginning on October 1, 2008, for participants in the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan once they reach 70 years of age.

No action is required of SBP participants to be placed in Paid-up SBP status. Once the eligibility criteria has been met, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will automatically stop deducting premiums from qualifying military retired pay accounts.

The law establishing Paid-up SBP does not allow for refunds of premiums paid before October 1, 2008, even though a retiree may have reached age 70 and made 360 or more premium payments.

DFAS is currently developing changes to the military retiree pay systems that will monitor the number of SBP premiums paid and the age of the participant. The system updates are targeted for a May 2008 completion date. At that time, SBP participants who will be eligible for Paid-up SBP status on October 1, 2008, or will meet eligibility within a short time of the implementation date, will be notified by mail of their impending paid-up status.

Those military retirees who become eligible for Paid-up SBP status after the initial group will be notified of their SBP status on their December 2008 annual Retiree Account Statements that will note the number of premiums paid to date. Each RAS issued after December 2008, whether annually or as a result of a pay change, will include the Paid-up SBP premium "counter," based on DFAS records, to help retirees monitor their eligibility status.

More information on Paid-up SBP, including frequently asked questions and news updates, should be available at the DFAS Web site at "www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html" within the next several months. (Courtesy of the Defense finance and Accounting Service)

(all meeting minutes are unofficial until approved at the Post meeting)

**The American Legion
Pocatello Post 4
Meeting Minutes For July 10, 2007**

Officers Present: 6

Members Present: 26

Guests: none

Total Present: 32

Bingo Report: No report.

BCVMA Report: Nothing new. Veterans can sponsor events at Memorial Building. New forms are available for use.

American Legion Riders Report: Need volunteers for the POW/MIA rodeo. ALR is doing the parking lot duty again. Currently planning fund raising rides.

Funeral Report: 8 in June. 4 so far in July. 47 year to date. You get Honor Guard pin after attending 3 funerals. Honor Guard Colors presentation on 7/11 at 4PM, on N. Main.

Sick Call Report: Boyd Packer is back.

Membership Report: 07 membership is at 102%. 08 membership is 100% now with 11 new members. Seven members received membership award pins.

Veterans Home Report: The fishing trip was a big success. Wade Beery told about fireworks display that Post 4 held at the Veterans Home on 7/5. It was very well received.

Baseball Report: Winding down now. The “A” tournament games are here in Pocatello.

Finance Report: Still about \$21,500 in all bank accounts

Service Officer Report: Higher security is now in place at all offices.

Old/Unfinished Business Report: Fishing Derby was a resounding success. We need a lot more trophies for the children. We had 58 kids and only 8 trophies. The Idaho State Convention opens this week, and all members of the Post are invited to attend and to help out up at the Red Lion.

New Business Report: Steve Brown gave the history of the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall and asked for volunteers for the set ups, security, and tear down work. We meet the Wall at 1 PM to escort into Pocatello. The opening ceremony is on Friday 7/27 at 1 PM. The next Homeless Standdown is on October 19th. Legion State Convention open Thursday the 12th here in Pocatello.

Good Of The Order: The winner of the \$20 dinner prize was Frank Smity

Meeting Closed At: 2007

Attendance Drawing. You must be in attendance at 2nd Wed. night meeting.

Prize: Dinner for two. Name

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 4 POCATELLO, ID
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 10, 2007
and INFORMATION FOR THE LEGION RIDERS MEMBERSHIP

Nominations were taken and elections held for the following positions.

POW/MIA Liaison - Phil Meek

Membership - Wade Beery

POW-MIA Rally parking support. Sign-ups for working at the fairgrounds during the Awareness Rally.

Moving Wall - request put out for those riding along with the Wall to wear a long-sleeve white shirt and tie.

American Legion National Rally in Reno: Our group will leave on Thursday 8/23 and ride to Elko, then on to Reno. The parade will be on Sunday 8/26, and return home on 8/27,

A Fun Ride is scheduled for 8/11 - Saturday. Route being planned. Leave Memorial Building at 9 AM. \$5 per person/bike donation. \$5 50/50 donation

POW - MIA UPDATE

Mark

Subject: POW/MIA Update: July 19, 2007

POW/MIA Update: July 19, 2007

AMERICAN ANNOUNCED AS ACCOUNTED FOR: There are now 1,779 US personnel listed by the Department of Defense as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The identification of the remains of three Americans previously missing and unaccounted for has not yet been publicly announced; however, the statistics are included here. Tuesday, the identification of Corporal Jim E. Moshier, USMC, CA was announced. CPL Moshier was listed as KIA/BNR on July 11, 1967, in South Vietnam. The accounting for these four US personnel brings to 804 the number of previously missing US personnel returned since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of 1,779 still listed as missing were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

PRESIDENTS OF VIETNAM & U.S. MEET: On June 22nd, the President of Vietnam met at the White House with President Bush and members of his Cabinet, including Secretary of Defense Bob Gates. According to US officials, the President again raised the need for increased cooperation by Vietnam, including on incidents in Laos and Cambodia, and to allow the US Navy's hydrographic ship to participate in underwater accounting efforts. The Vietnamese President stated agreement to increase their efforts, as did Deputy Prime Minister Khiem in a separate session, held at Vietnam's request, with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA Affairs Ambassador Charles Ray. That meeting was held at the Defense POW/MIA Office in Crystal City, very near the Hilton Crystal City Hotel, location of the League's 38th Annual Meeting.

Also during President Triet's visit to Washington, League Executive Director Ann Mills Griffiths and Senior Policy Advisor Richard T. Childress attended a luncheon co-hosted by the US-ASEAN Business Council and the US Chairman of Commerce at the historic Willard Hotel where President Triet was staying with his 200-member, largely economic entourage. Surprisingly, the MC at the luncheon introduced the honored guest with comments about how meaningful it had been to him, as a retired general officer, to be on Secretary of State Warren Christopher's first visit to Vietnam that focused primarily on the POW/MIA accounting mission. His initial mention of the issue brought significant applause from the audience of prominent US corporate officials. Unsurprisingly, the issue also figured prominently in President Triet's remarks; the Vietnamese have long acknowledged the central

role the issue played in normalizing bilateral ties with the United States, terming the issue their “bridge to normalization” of relations.

UPDATE ON OPERATIONS: The 100th period of Joint Field Activities (JFA) in Laos, the fourth 30-day JFA this year, began June 26th and is expected to conclude July 31st. Again comprised of some 50 US personnel, four teams are focusing on incident excavations. A Change of Command occurred on July 2nd, during which LTC Brandt Deck, USA, replaced LTC Wade Owens, USA, as Detachment 3 Commander. Both are Special Forces officers, as is JPAC’s Detachment Commander in Hanoi, LTC Jim Saenz, USA. The 89th JFA in Vietnam is ongoing and will continue over a 45-day period until July 25th. The roughly 100 US personnel are dispersed among one Research/Investigation Team (RIT), one Investigation Team (IT), one Phase 2 Testing Team (P2TT) and five recovery Teams (RTs). The last JFA, March 8th- April 21st, was extended to include an Underwater Investigation Team (UIT) that included the Navy’s Mobile Diving Salvage Unit #1 (MDSU1), operating along the coast of northern Vietnam, though without the US Navy ship as earlier agreed.

Worldwide, a survey and investigation of a WWII loss on the island of Iwo Jima took place June 17-27th, and an investigation is ongoing in South Korea June 1-30th. While conducting the investigation of a possible burial site identified by an eye witness in the Republic of Korea, the US team recovered possible remains and other material evidence; therefore an immediate recovery operation was undertaken to prevent the possibility of disturbance by nearby South Korean personnel.

A JPAC historian recently returned to Hawaii after a brief visit to the Netherlands to observe salvage operations of a possible US aircraft and conduct interviews related to a WWII incident. Finally, excavations on two WWII sites in Hungary and Austria are ongoing and expected to conclude on August 15th.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH: There is widespread disappointment – in DPMO, JPAC and the League – in responses to the US Government-funded archival research programs, especially in Vietnam. This program has been ongoing for several years, but archival records known to exist have not yet been provided, thus the continued calls for unilateral actions by Hanoi, including by President Bush last November. It is hoped bilateral technical talks with each of the Indochina governments that will occur over the summer will focus on renewing viable multilateral archival cooperation, among other

initiatives that are or should be considered.

WIN A HARLEY DAVIDSON SPORTSTER: The League will receive all proceeds from a nationwide drawing to win a beautiful customized 1989 Harley Sportster that is now ongoing. Only 8,000 raffle tickets have been printed and numbered, \$10.00 each, obtainable by contacting the League office. With a 1/8,000 chance of winning this Harley Davidson Sportster, the drawing will be held on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 21, 2007, in Washington, DC. Tickets can also be obtained through the League's website, www.POWMIALeague.org <<http://www.powmialeague.org/>> , by clicking on Pay Pal, though handling adds an additional \$2.00 to the total cost of the ticket(s). Now is your chance to win a Harley AND support the League, a nonprofit 501 [c] 3 tax-exempt organization.

38TH ANNUAL MEETING: The League's 38th Annual Meeting was held June 21-24th at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA. There were two very full days of League and US Government presentations, both policy and operational, on Friday, June 22nd and Saturday, June 23rd, followed by a League business session wrap-up on Sunday morning, June 24th. A complete report on all that transpired will shortly be distributed nationwide and put onto the League's web site.

FAMILIES OPPOSE ANOTHER SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS: Having had many negative results from prior congressional select committees, the League is on record as strongly opposing H. Res. 111. Introduced again this year by Representative Peter King (R-NY), the measure has slowly gained some co-sponsors, usually from Members of the House who have confidence that it will again be allowed to die in committee. Previously disproven claims of conspiracy and cover-up are again being raised, and past investigations have completely tied up assets and resources and the accounting was put on hold to allow time and attention to responding to Congress. The League will continue to fight against another wasteful, time-consuming special committee or commission unless and until there is nothing further that can be done constructively. In that event, the League would then reconsider. That time is NOT now!

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC) APPROVES LEAGUE FOR 2007: The League was just notified that all criteria were met, and our newly assigned (five digit) number is 10218, just assigned by the US Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Washington, DC. The League is the ONLY nonprofit organization representing Vietnam War POW/MIAs and KIA/BNR's and their families that is eligible for donations through the CFC & United Way structure. Despite the reality that there are many competing

charities and much need, especially in a time of war, the League is proud of our CFC eligibility, knowing the tough criteria any organization must meet.

CHECK THE LEAGUE'S UPDATED WEB SITE

[www.POWMIALeague.org](http://www.powmialeague.org) <<http://www.powmialeague.org>>

[www.POWMIALeague.com](http://www.powmialeague.com) <<http://www.powmialeague.com>>

www.pow-miafamilies.org <<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org>>

Ann Mills Griffiths
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1005 North Glebe Road, Suite 170
Arlington, VA 22201
(PH) 703-465-7432 (FX) 703-465-7433
www.pow-miafamilies.org <<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org>>

Subject : POW*MIA Distro: Korean War MIAs are identified

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July 19, 2007

SOLDIERS MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE KOREAN WAR ARE IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Sgt. Donald C. Trent, of Crab Orchard, W. Va.; Cpl. Robert K. Imrie, of Randolph, Mass.; and Cpl. Samuel Werrick of Lancaster, Pa.; all U.S. Army. Imrie will be buried Monday at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.; and Trent and Werrick will be buried at Arlington in October.

Representatives from the Army met with the next-of-kin of these men in their hometowns to explain the recovery and identification process and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

In late November 1950, these soldiers were members of the 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, then operating south of the Chongchon River in North Korea. Their regiment's positions came under heavy attack by Chinese forces and the 2nd Battalion was forced to withdraw to positions near the town of Kujang. On Nov. 27, Imrie was killed in action, and Trent and Wirrick were reported missing.

In 2000, a joint U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Korean People's Army team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a mass burial believed to contain the remains of U.S. soldiers who died near Kujang. The team found human remains, Wirrick's identification tag and other material evidence associated with U.S. Army infantry equipment.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of the remains.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1420.

-end-

Subject : POW*MIA Distro: Final Homecoming

From: Powmiamfam@aol.com [mailto:Powmiamfam@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2007 3:44 PM
To: pow.mia@juno.com; shirlfam@alltel.net;
Phillipe.Ritter@AlconLabs.com; rflick@columbus.rr.com;
sue_scott@dale-carnegie.com; kmcmanus@gouldproperty.com;
bobbi1967@msn.com; g.innes@sbcglobal.net; pamcain@cox.net;
sacred.trust@sbcglobal.net; Stephensen Mark
Subject: Re: Final Homecoming

The increasing attention to remains recovery and identification on Korean War and WWII incidents should be alarming to all of us, not only because of diverted assets and resources, but because WWII families

are
now also seeking COIN Assist and in some cases, even disinterment
and
identification on US WWII personnel known KIA who were buried in
cemeteries in Europe where they died. That "blending" of POW/MIA
with
known KIAs and demands for parity will continue to erode any sense
of
urgency or intensity of action on Vietnam War losses, now some four
decades into the process. Recognizing I'm not at all opposed to
remains
recoveries on WWII losses, all cannot be accomplished
simultaneously,
and since WWII aircraft crash sites are the result of slower moving
planes, with larger crews, identifications come more quickly and in
larger numbers. Just something to think about..... Ann

Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director
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Final Homecoming Part II

<<http://www.kcentv.com/video/7-16/wed/homecoming0718.wmv>> Watch
Video

Updated: Jul 18, 2007 10:21pm

There are tens of thousands of families who still hope and pray
their
loved
ones listed as Missing in Action will someday be found.

The military is using DNA to bring those servicemen and women home.

What seemed impossible 30 years ago is now a reality all because of
DNA
technology.

Equipped with a brand new tool the Department of Defense is doing
all it
can
to give those missing in action a final homecoming.

In America, there are almost 90,000 servicemen and women who are
missing
a
final resting place, because they're also missing in action.

However, thanks to recent DNA technology, Army-Air Force pilot Cecil

Biggs,
is now home.

"[I'm] not only grateful, but impressed about what our country does to recover those who died in service. You know, the extent they go to identify them," Biggs' son Bill said.

On average, the military spends more than \$100 million a year to recover those still missing in action.

The Joint POW / MIA Accounting Command or JPAC, is the group responsible for recovering military remains.

In all, there are 18 recovery teams that travel the globe and do DNA testing to return these men and women to their loved ones.

"They're probably the premiere lab in the world when it comes to this type of work - trying to get DNA and genetic results from skeletal remains," UNT Lab Director Dr. Art Eisenberg said.

Doctor Eisenberg is the Director of the DNA lab at the University of North Texas in Fort Worth, and he was also part of the group that originated the DNA identification process.

He said the military goes to painstaking lengths to bring MIA's home, but the hard part isn't always finding DNA, but finding the families.

"The key is really getting the family reference samples. We can get DNA from these remains, but if we don't have something to compare it to those individuals will never be identified," Eisenberg added.

JPAC officials said on average they identify six Americans a month.

However, the entire recovery process could take years to complete,
as
they
double and triple-check everything.

"It's our responsibility to take care of each other and part of that
is
not
only taking care of each other, but taking care of those in the
past,"
U.S.
Army Colonel John Huey said.

Thanks to JPAC, hundreds of families have been able to bury their
loved
ones, but there's still a long way to go to make sure all of our
American
heroes are accounted for.

"If we only identify one person, it's worth the money that we put
into
it,
it's worth the man power, time and effort that we put into it," Huey
added.

After 63 years, the family of Cecil Biggs couldn't agree more.

Despite this new technology, not all servicemen and women can be
found.

According to JPAC some 40,000 World War II vets are lost at sea.

Plus, there are some extreme cases where a DNA sample is just too
old
and
damaged to identify.

Subject : FW: VA Mental Health Forum

From: VA Media Relations <va.media.relations@VA.GOV>
Reply-To: VA Media Relations <va.media.relations@VA.GOV>
To: VANEWS-L@WWW.LISTSERV.VA.GOV
Subject: VA Mental Health Forum
Date: Mon, 16 Jul 2007 18:17:41 -0400
>Recent VA News Releases

>
>To view and download VA news release, please visit the following
>Internet address:
><http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel>

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>
>
>
>**VA Brings Mental Health Programs to Primary Care Settings**
>**Nicholson: VA Leading the Way in Increasing Access**

>
>WASHINGTON (July 16, 2007) -- Addressing a special mental health forum
>with the top clinicians and researchers from the Department of Veterans
>Affairs (VA), Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson announced
>plans to begin locating some of the Department's mental health programs
>closer to places where primary care is provided.

>
>"Given the reluctance of some veterans to talk about emotional problems,
>increasing our mental health presence in primary care settings will give
>veterans a familiar venue in which to receive care -- without actually
>going to an identified mental health clinic," he said.

>
>Nicholson described VA as "a long-standing leader in mental health,"
>with \$3 billion devoted this year to mental health services. The
>Department has the nation's largest mental health program and is
>internationally recognized for research and treatment for post-traumatic
>stress disorder (PTSD).

>
>"The wounds of war are not always the result of explosions and rocket
>fire," he added. "They can sometimes be unseen and cloaked in silence.
>If left untreated, they can be just as lethal."

>
>"We let veterans know that mental health issues and other
>military-related readjustment problems are not their fault -- that we
>can help them -- and that they can get better," he added.

>
>Acknowledging that VA officials expect to see increasing numbers of
>newly returned combat veterans with PTSD and other mental health issues,
>Nicholson said mental health care is currently provided at each of VA's
>153 medical centers and 882 outpatient clinics.

>
>Nicholson also announced plans to begin a series of regional conferences
>about providing mental health care to veterans with "our partners at the
>state, local and community levels."

>
>Recent expansion of the Department's mental health services include:

>
>* Greater availability of "telemental health" programs, which treated

>about 20,000 patients last year;

>

>* Integrating mental health services into geriatric programs;

>

>* Adding psychologists and social workers to the staffs of VA's

>polytrauma centers;

>

>* Increasing the number of Vet Centers from 209 to 232, and adding 100

>new combat veterans to run outreach programs to their former comrades.

>

>"As the newest generation of combat veterans returns home, we want to

>ensure that we are providing them the very best in mental health care

>and treatment possible. They deserve nothing less," Nicholson said.

>

>

>

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><http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opalist_listserv.cfm>

Subject : NEWS RELEASE ~ VA Secretary Announces Resignation

-----Original Message-----

From: VA Media Relations [mailto:va.media.relations@VA.GOV]

Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2007 09:34 AM

To: VANEWS-L@WWW.LISTSERV.VA.GOV

Subject: VA Secretary Announces Resignation

Recent VA News Releases

To view and download VA news release, please visit the following Internet address: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel>

Nicholson to leave VA and Return to the Private Sector
Under his Leadership, VA Makes Strides in Health Care and IT Modernization WASHINGTON (July 17, 2007) -- Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson announced today he has tendered his resignation to President George W. Bush, effective no later than October 1, 2007.

Under Nicholson's leadership, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continued its evolution as a leader in health care innovations, medical research, education services, home loan and other benefits to veterans. He transformed the VA health care system to meet the unique medical requirements of the returning combatants from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In his letter of resignation, Nicholson praised and thanked the President for the honor of serving him and our Nation's veterans in this key post at such a "critical time in our nation's global war on terror."

"The VA is a dynamic organization dedicated to serving our nation's finest citizens - our veterans," Nicholson said. "It has been an honor and privilege to lead the VA during this historic time for our men and women who have worn the uniform. We have accomplished so much and the VA is always striving to improve our services to veterans."

Nicholson said he wants to return to the private sector. "This coming February, I turn 70 years old, and I feel it is time for me to get back into business, while I still can." He said he has no definite plans at this time.

He also addressed an assembled group of Washington VA employees and those watching around the country on VA's closed-circuit television. In his message to employees, Nicholson told them how privileged he felt to have worked with them in fulfilling our nation's promises and obligations to its veterans.

"VA has come a long way in meeting the growing needs and expectations of our veterans and you deserve the credit", Nicholson said.

Nicholson, a Vietnam Veteran, was sworn in as Secretary of Veterans Affairs on February 1, 2005.

During Secretary Nicholson's tenure at the Department of Veterans Affairs:

* Directed each of our veterans of the global war on terror who come to the VA for any kind of care to be carefully screened for brain damage (TBI) and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

* Hired 100 new Outreach Coordinators to provide services to returning OIF/OEF veterans. The new coordinators are located in Vet Centers throughout the country especially near our military processing stations.

* Created a new Advisory Committee on OIF/OEF Veterans and their families to advise him on ways to improve programs serving OIF/OEF veterans.

* Directed the Veterans Benefits Administration to give priority to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) veterans in its compensation and pension claim system.

* Launched a major information technology transformation in the VA with the way it uses and safeguards personal and health information of veterans.

* Created a new Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness to deal with emergency planning and security. Initiated the overhaul of the VA's vast contracting and acquisitions systems.

* Created a blue ribbon Genomic Research Advisory Committee to use the VA's expansive medical data holdings to advance the science of predictive medicine.

* Commenced a major campaign to reduce the high rate of diabetes in veterans.

* Launched a national effort in the Veterans Health Administration to eradicate staph infections in VA hospitals.

* Approved 82 new Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) to bring VA top notch care closer to the veterans who have earned it.

* Created a new multi-campus Nursing Academy through partnership with the nursing schools throughout the country to help address a shortage of nurses within the VA and nationwide.

* Directed the hiring of suicide prevention counselors at each of VA's 153 facilities to strengthen one of the nation's largest mental health programs. He also established a 24-hour national suicide prevention hotline that will be operational by the end of July 2007.

* Hired 100 new Patient Care Advocates to help severely injured veterans and their families manage VA's system for health care and financial benefits.

* Led the President's recent Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes to improve the delivery of federal services and benefits

to Global War on Terror service members and veterans.

"This is a very big Government agency that, among many other things, sees over 1 million patients a week in its health care system, and is doing a world class job," Nicholson said. "The American people can feel proud about the way we are treating our veterans. The President and the Congress have been very supportive and for that I am grateful as well."

Nicholson thanked the President, "he has given me terrific opportunities to serve my country and under his strong and supportive leadership, it has been a real privilege."

Nicholson left the private business world over 10 years, where he ran a successful residential development and construction company. He was elected Chairman of the Republican National Committee in January 1997. Immediately prior to becoming Secretary, he served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

Subject : FW: Program helps disabled vets get defense business contracts

From: afrns@afpclist.afpc.randolph.af.mil [mailto:afrns@afpclist.afpc.randolph.af.mil]

Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2007 1:52 PM

To: Air Force Retiree News Service

Subject: Program helps disabled vets get defense business contracts

Release No. 07-03-07

July 18, 2007

Program helps disabled vets get defense business contracts

by Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Thousands of disabled military veterans have enrolled in a governmentwide program that is designed to help them succeed in new careers as business owners, a Defense Department official said here July 18.

The Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Office was established at the Pentagon by an October 2004 presidential executive order and federal legislation. These actions stipulate 3 percent of all annual military contracting will go to small businesses operated by service-disabled veterans, said Anthony R. Martoccia, director of the office of small business programs at the Pentagon.

Military contracting officers in the field are on the lookout for disabled-veteran-owned businesses to provide services for the government, Mr. Martoccia said.

There is "a strong focus" by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and other senior officials to ensure the program is fully implemented, Mr. Martoccia added.

More than 24,000 servicemembers have been wounded or injured on duty since the global war against terrorist began on Sept. 11, 2001, Mr. Martoccia said. Many of these veterans have had to leave the military because of disabling injury, he added.

The SDVOSB program is geared toward helping disabled veterans establish second careers as entrepreneurs who do business with the Defense Department, Mr. Martoccia said. The program, he added, is open to disabled veterans from all the nation's wars and all branches of military service.

"There's a lot of work out there, obviously, and there's a lot of opportunity," Mr. Martoccia said. Last year, the SDVOSB program registered more than 5,000 businesses. Today, disabled-veteran-owned businesses account for more than \$1 billion in government contracts.

Pentagon officials are putting the word out to military contracting officers about the governmentwide goal to award 3 percent of contracts to businesses owned by disabled veterans, Mr. Martoccia said.

"A lot of these companies can really get some business with the federal marketplace," he said.

Related Sites:

Department of Defense Office of Small Business Programs

<http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/programs/veterans/>

Veteran Legislation

30 July 07

Following is a listing of Congressional bills of interest to the veteran community that have been introduced in the 110th Congress. By clicking on the bill number you can access the actual legislative language of the bill and see if your representative has signed on as a cosponsor. Support of these bills by other legislators is critical if they are ever going to move through the legislative process for a floor vote to become law. A good indication on that likelihood is the number of cosponsors who have signed onto the bill. A cosponsor is a member of Congress who has joined one or more members in his/her chamber (i.e. House or Senate) to sponsor a bill or amendment. The member who introduces the bill is considered the sponsor. Members subsequently signing on are called cosponsors. Any number of members may cosponsor a bill in the House or Senate. At <http://thomas.loc.gov> you can also review a copy of each bill, determine its current status, the committee it has been assigned to, and if your legislator is a sponsor or cosponsor of it. To determine what bills, amendments your representative has sponsored, cosponsored, or dropped sponsorship on refer to <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d110/sponlst.html>. The key to increasing cosponsorship is letting our representatives know of veterans feelings on issues. At the end of some listed bills is a web link that can be used to do that. Otherwise, you can locate on <http://thomas.loc.gov> who your representative is and his/her phone number, mailing address, or email/website to communicate with a message or letter of your own making:

House Bills

H.R.0023: Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (244). Status: Committee Hearings Held. Companion bill S.0961. Status: Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.

H.R.0025: Fair Tax Act of 2007. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States. Sponsor: Rep Linder, John [GA-7] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (63). Companion Bill is S.0025. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.0067: Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep McIntyre, Mike [NC-7] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (32). Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.0081: Montgomery GI Bill Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that members of the Armed Forces and Selected Reserve may transfer certain educational assistance benefits to dependents, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. [MD-6] (introduced 1/4/07) Cosponsors (2). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.0089: Combat-Related Special Compensation Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend eligibility for combat-related special compensation (CRSC) paid to certain uniformed services retirees who are retired under chapter 61 of such title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (38). Status: Referred to the

Subcommittee on Military Personnel. Companion bill S.986. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240191>.

H.R.0092: Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish standards of access (i.e. 30 days) to care for veterans seeking health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, would allow referral to civilian care in cases where the standard is not met, would require the VA to annually report its performance in meeting those access standards, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Brown-Waite, Ginny [FL-5] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (8). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240456>.

H.R.0109: Disabled Veteran Small Business Eligibility Expansion Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to make service-disabled veterans eligible under the 8(a) business development program. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Jo Ann [VA-1] (introduced 1/4/07) Cosponsors (2). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Small Business.

H.R.0112: G.I. Advanced Education in Science and Technology Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of stipends to veterans who pursue doctoral degrees in science or technology. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Jo Ann [VA-1] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.0136: Identity Theft Notification Act of 2007. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that individuals and appropriate authorities are notified by the Commissioner of Social Security of evidence of misuse of the Social Security account numbers of such individuals. Sponsor: Rep Gallegly, Elton [CA-24] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security.

H.R.0140: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the amounts reimbursed to institutional providers of health care services under the TRICARE program to be the same as amounts reimbursed under Medicare, and to require the Secretary of Defense to contract for health care services with at least one teaching hospital in urban areas. Sponsor: Rep Green, Gene [TX-29] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (12). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9329026&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9329026&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0156: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) to the survivors of former prisoners of war (POWs) who died on or before 30 SEP 99, under the same eligibility conditions as apply to payment of DIC to the survivors of former prisoners of war who die after that date. Sponsor: Rep Holden, Tim [PA-17] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (31). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240856>

H.R.0191: Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the inclusion in gross income of Social Security benefits. Sponsor: Rep Paul, Ron [TX-14] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (10). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.0207: Depleted Uranium Screening and Testing Act. A bill to provide for identification of members of the Armed Forces exposed during military service to depleted uranium, to provide for health testing of such members, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Serrano, Jose E. [NY-16] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (15). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.0243: Combat Military Medically Retired Veteran's Fairness Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the payment of Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to

members of the Armed Forces retired for disability with less than 20 years of active military service who were awarded the Purple Heart. Sponsor: Rep Weller, Jerry [IL-11] (introduced 1/5/07). Cosponsors (12). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.0303: Retired Pay Restoration Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 1/5/07). Cosponsors (139). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240026>

H.R.0315: Healthy Vets Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with community health care providers to improve access to health care for veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Pearce, Stevan [NM-2] (introduced 1/5/07). Cosponsors (20). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9328981&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9328981&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0327: Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans. Sponsor: Rep Boswell, Leonard L. [IA-3] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (152). Passed/agreed to in House: Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 423 – 0. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.0333: Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50% to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt and combat-related special compensation to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Marshall, Jim [GA-8] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (53). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.0339: Veterans Outpatient Care Access Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve access to medical services for veterans seeking treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinics with exceptionally long waiting periods. Sponsor: Rep Duncan, John J., Jr. [TN-2] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.0343: Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B. Sponsor: Rep Emerson, Jo Ann [MO-8] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (8). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9329391&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9329391&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0402: Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans. Sponsor: Rep Knollenberg, Joe [MI-09] (introduced 1/11/07). Cosponsors (29). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9330146&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9330146&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]).

H.R.0447: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that World War II merchant mariners who were awarded the Mariners Medal shall be provided eligibility for DVA health care on the same basis as veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart. Sponsor: Rep Fortenberry, Jeff [NE-1] (introduced 1/12/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.0463: Honor Our Commitment to Veterans Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for enrollment (referred to as "Priority 8"). Sponsor: Rep Rothman, Steven R. [NJ-09] (introduced 1/12/07). Cosponsors (42). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.0538: South Texas Veterans Access to Care Act of 2007. To provide for the health care needs of veterans in far South Texas. Sponsor: Rep Ortiz, Solomon P. [TX-27] (introduced 1/17/07). Cosponsors (7). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.0542: A bill to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mental health services in languages other than English, as needed, for veterans with limited English proficiency, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Solis, Hilda L. [CA-32] (introduced 1/17/07). Cosponsors (6). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.0551: Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the eligibility of veterans for mortgage bond financing, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Susan A. [CA-53] (introduced 1/18/07). Cosponsors (61). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.0579: Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit certain increases in fees (i.e. Tricare) for military health care. Sponsor: Rep Edwards, Chet [TX-17] (introduced 1/19/07). Cosponsors (178). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9284961&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9284961&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]) or <http://capwiz.com/trea/issues/alert/?alertid=9289751&queueid=1050771381>

H.R.0585: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. Sponsor: Rep Herseth, Stephanie [SD] (introduced 1/19/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.0612: Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 1/22/07). Cosponsors (20). Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.0634: American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act. A bill to authorize the secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative silver dollars that will be sold with a surcharge that will help the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation raise the money needed to construct the Disabled Veterans Memorial. Sponsor: Rep Moore, Dennis [KS-3] (introduced 1/23/07). Cosponsors 298. Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 416 – 0. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to <http://capwiz.com/military/issues/alert/?alertid=9802696>

H.R.0649: Blind Veterans Fairness Act. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to provide that annuities paid by States to blind veterans shall be disregarded in determining supplemental security income (SSI) benefits. Sponsor: Rep Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (33). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.0650: A bill to provide for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program to determine the effectiveness of contracting for the use of private memory care facilities for veterans with Alzheimer's Disease. Sponsor: Rep Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (11). Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (12). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.0652: A bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans. Sponsor: Rep Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (33). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.

H.R.0653: Combat Veteran Affidavit Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the sworn affidavit of a veteran who served in combat during the Korean War or an earlier conflict to be accepted as proof of service-connection of a disease or injury alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by such service. Sponsor: Rep Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (11). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.0657: Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces following their death. Sponsor: Rep Jones, Walter B., Jr. [NC-3] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (36). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9322811&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9322811&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]).

H.R.675: Disabled Veterans Adaptive Housing Improvement Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of assistance available to disabled veterans for specially adapted housing and to provide for annual increases in such amount. Sponsor: Rep Herseth, Stephanie [SD] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.0690: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55. Sponsor: Rep Saxton, Jim [NJ-3] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (104). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.0704: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce from age 57 to age 55 the age after which the remarriage of the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran shall not result in termination of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) otherwise payable to that surviving spouse. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 1/29/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.0737: Forgotten Veteran's Retirement Compensation Act. A bill to correct an inequity in eligibility for military retired pay based on nonregular service in the case of certain members of the reserve components completing their reserve service before 1966. Sponsor: Rep Scott, Robert C. [VA-3] (introduced 1/30/07). Cosponsors (8). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.0760: Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced

1/31/07). Cosponsors (88). Companion bill S.0057. Status: Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.

H.R.0784: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). Sponsor: Rep Saxton, Jim [NJ-3] (introduced 1/31/07). Cosponsors (113). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9409496&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9409496&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0797: Veteran Vision Equity Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation benefits for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Baldwin, Tammy [WI-2] (introduced 2/5/07). Cosponsors 64. Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill 424 - 0 (Roll no. 175). Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.0959: Forgotten Military Widows Annuity Act of 2007. A bill to expand a Department of Defense survivor annuity program (SBP) that covers unremarried surviving spouses of certain members of the uniformed services who died before October 1, 1978, to include any otherwise eligible surviving spouse who remarries after age 55 or whose remarriage before age 55 is terminated. Sponsor: Rep Saxton, Jim [NJ-3] (introduced 2/8/07). Cosponsors (none). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.0991: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals eligible for veterans health benefits to contribute to health savings accounts. Sponsor: Rep Campbell, John [CA-48] (introduced 2/12/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.1041: Veterans Health Care Full Funding Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide an enhanced funding process to ensure an adequate level of funding for veterans health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Smith, Christopher H. [NJ-4] (introduced 2/14/07). Cosponsors (6). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1086: Strengthening America's Military Families Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income the earned income of a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in a combat zone. Sponsor: Rep Garrett, Scott [NJ-5] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (6). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.1110: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Tom [VA-11] (introduced 2/16/07). Cosponsors (236). Companion bill to S.773. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Post Office, and the District of Columbia. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9408301&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9408301&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1115: A bill to amend section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, to provide additional options regarding the designation of the person to receive the death gratuity paid with respect to a member of the Armed Forces who dies without a surviving spouse, but who is survived by a minor child. Sponsor: Rep Latham, Tom [IA-4] (introduced 2/16/07). Cosponsors (30). Companion Bill is S.659. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423396&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423396&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1197: Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 2/27/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1211: Resuming Education After Defense Service Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide entitlement to educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for members of the Selected Reserve who aggregate more than two years of active duty service in any five year period, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Matheson, Jim [UT-2] (introduced 2/27/07). Cosponsors (68). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1214: Veterans' Survivors Education Enhancement Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance educational assistance for survivors and dependents of veterans. Sponsor: Rep Ramstad, Jim [MN-3] (introduced 2/27/07). Cosponsors (3). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1222: Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. A bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes. This measure would fulfill the promises made to young recruits that quality health care would be available to them when they retired after a career in uniformed service to our country. It would also allow military retirees to opt out of the Tricare military health system and enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) plan if Tricare does not provide them adequate health care. Sponsor: Rep Van Hollen, Chris [MD-8] (introduced 2/28/07). Cosponsors (92). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1223: Keeping Faith with the Greatest Generation Military Retirees Act. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive Medicare part B premiums for certain military retirees. Sponsor: Rep Van Hollen, Chris [MD-8] (introduced 2/28/07). Cosponsors (72). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.1226: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the basic educational assistance program of the DVA. Sponsor: Rep Johnson, Timothy V. [IL-15] (introduced 2/28/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1265: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Equity Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to authorize the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to award contracts to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans under the section 8(a) program. Sponsor: Rep Buyer, Steve [IN-4] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Small Business.

H.R.1268: Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act. A bill to ensure dignity in care for members of the Armed Forces recovering from injuries. Sponsor: Rep Mitchell, Harry E. [AZ-5] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (36). Companion Bill is S.713. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1272: Veterans' Pension Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the pension program of the DVA. Sponsor: Rep Berkley, Shelley [NV-1] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (8). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1273: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to restore plot allowance eligibility for veterans of any war and to restore the headstone or marker allowance for eligible persons. Sponsor: Rep Berkley, Shelley [NV-1] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1284: Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. Sponsor: Rep Hall, John J. [NY-19] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (14). Related bill S.423. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1315: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide specially adaptive housing assistance to certain disabled members of the Armed Forces residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member. Sponsor: Rep Herseth, Stephanie [SD] (introduced 3/5/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held. 7/27/2007 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 168.

H.R.1318: Veterans' Benefits Protection Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the authority for agent or attorney representation in veterans benefits cases before the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Lewis, Ron [KY-2] (introduced 3/5/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1330: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend the time limit for the use of education assistance by members of the Selected Reserve and members of the reserve component supporting contingency operations and certain other operations. Sponsor: Rep Carney, Christopher P. [PA-10] (introduced 3/6/07). Cosponsors (41). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1354: Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for members of the Armed Forces, veterans of the Global War on Terrorism, and other veterans, to require reports on the effects of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Moran, James P. [VA-8] (introduced 3/6/07). Cosponsors (54). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1418: Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. A bill to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs. Sponsor: Rep Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [NJ-8] (introduced 3/8/07). Cosponsors (35). Companion bill to S.793. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.1426: Veterans' Access to Local Health Care Options and Resources Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans enrolled in the health system of the DVA the option of receiving covered health services through facilities other than those of the Department. Sponsor: Rep Latham, Tom [IA-4] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (10). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held. Companion bill to S.815. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9697361&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9697361&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1428: National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the eligibility age for receipt of non-regular military service retired pay for members of the Ready Reserve in active federal status or on active duty for significant periods. Sponsor: Rep Latham, Tom [IA-4] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (26). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1435: Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Backlog Reduction Act of 2007. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program to reduce the backlog of claims for benefits pending with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Baca, Joe [CA-43] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (14). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.1436: Retired Pay Restoration Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the DVA for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation. It would eliminate the phase-in period for

retirees who are paid at the 100%-disabled rate due to individual unemployability (IU). It also would extend concurrent receipt (CRDP) to otherwise-qualified disabled retirees with disabilities rated less than 50%. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (4). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1444: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make interim benefit payments under certain remanded claims, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Hall, John J. [NY-19] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.1470: Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act. A bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 3/12/07). Cosponsors (16). Related bills H.R.1471 & H.R.1554. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9814161&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9814161&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1471: BACK Veterans Health Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit eligible veterans to receive direct access to chiropractic care. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 3/12/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.1477: Disabled Veterans Commissary and Exchange Store Benefits Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend military commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans with a compensable service-connected disability and to their dependents. Sponsor: Rep Fortenberry, Jeff [NE-1] (introduced 3/12/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1490: A bill to provide for a presumption of service-connectedness for certain claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Donnelly, Joe [IN-2] (by request) (introduced 3/13/07). Cosponsors (19). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.1521: Universal Health Act of 2007: Repeal of the Late Enrollment Penalty in Medicare Part D. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicare prescription drug benefit late enrollment penalty. Sponsor: Rep Kagen, Steve, M.D. [WI-8] (introduced 3/14/07). Cosponsors (24). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.1527: Rural Veterans Access to Care Act . A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow highly rural veterans enrolled in the health system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive covered health services through providers other than those of the Department, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Moran, Jerry [KS-1] (introduced 3/14/07). Cosponsors (11). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.1536: Prescription Coverage Now Act of 2007. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assist low-income individuals in obtaining subsidized prescription drug coverage under the Medicare prescription drug program by expediting the application and qualification process and by revising the resource standards used to determine eligibility for such subsidies, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Doggett, Lloyd [TX-25] (introduced 3/15/07). Cosponsors (170). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.1538: Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Skelton, Ike [MO-4] (introduced 3/15/07). Cosponsors (28). Related bill S.1283. Status: Passed

Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9600206&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9600206&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1552: Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act of 2007. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat Medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Pomeroy, Earl [ND] (introduced 3/15/07). Cosponsors (103). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.1554: Chiropractic Health Parity for Military Beneficiaries Act. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services and benefits for certain new beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program. Sponsor: Rep Rogers, Mike D. [AL-3] (introduced 3/15/07). Cosponsors (9). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1570: Bataan Death March Compensation Act. A bill to provide compensation for certain World War II veterans who survived the Bataan Death March and were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese. Sponsor: Rep Mica, John L. [FL-7] (introduced 3/19/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1589: Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act . A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as dependency and indemnity compensation, to repeal the optional annuity authority for the dependent children of a member when there is an eligible surviving spouse, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Brown, Henry E., Jr. [SC-1] (introduced 3/20/07). Cosponsors (67). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9550256&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9550256&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1660: A bill to direct the VA Secretary to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region. Sponsor: Rep Salazar, John T. [CO-3] (introduced 3/22/07). Cosponsors (8). Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1710: A bill to modify the calculation of back pay for persons who were approved for promotion as members of the Navy and Marine Corps while interned as prisoners of war during World War II to take into account changes in the Consumer Price Index. Sponsor: Rep Hooley, Darlene [OR-5] (introduced 3/27/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1732: A bill to provide alternative retired pay rates under title 10, United States Code, and alternative disability compensation rates under title 38, United States Code, for members of the Armed Forces with a combat-related disability, with such rates based on the average monthly salary for high school graduates in the U.S., and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. [MD-6] (introduced 3/28/07). Cosponsors (26). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1745: Uniting America's Military Families Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive inadmissibility based on a misrepresentation in the case of an immediate relative of an active duty or reserve member of the Armed Forces and to extend the V nonimmigrant visa program for spouses and children of such a member. Sponsor: Rep Ortiz, Solomon P. [TX-27] (introduced 3/28/07). Cosponsors (19). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.

H.R.1750: A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend from 90 days to one year the period after release of a member of the Armed Forces from active duty during which the member is protected from mortgage foreclosure under that Act. Sponsor: Rep Wynn, Albert Russell [MD-4] (introduced 3/28/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.1863: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a two-year pilot program to use a mobile processing unit to perform certain services of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Lamborn, Doug [CO-5] (introduced 4/17/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1864: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the automated processing of veterans disability compensation claims. Sponsor: Rep Lamborn, Doug [CO-5] (introduced 4/17/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1901: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for pension benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans who served during certain periods of time in specified locations. Sponsor: Rep Rahall, Nick J., II [WV-3] (introduced 4/17/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1912: Medicare Hearing Enhancement and Auditory Rehabilitation (HEAR) Act of 2007. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to cover hearing aids and auditory rehabilitation services under the Medicare Program. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 4/18/07). Cosponsors (3). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.1925: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a separate Veterans Integrated Service Network for the Gulf Coast region of the United States. Sponsor: Rep Miller, Jeff [FL-1] (introduced 4/18/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.1927: The Military Retiree Survivor Equity Act. A bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Ortiz, Solomon P. [TX-27] (introduced 4/18/07). Cosponsors (66). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. Companion Bill is S.0935. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9660956&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9660956&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1944: Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to screen certain veterans for symptoms of traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Altmire, Jason [PA-4] (introduced 4/19/07). Cosponsors (67). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.1953: Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act. A bill to require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act. Sponsor: Rep Gonzalez, Charles A. [TX-20] (introduced 4/19/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities.

H.R.1960: A Home for the Brave Act. A bill to amend the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 to allow community reinvestment credit for investments and other financial support to enable veterans to purchase residential homes or to assist organizations with the establishment of housing opportunities and assisted living facilities for veterans. Sponsor: Rep Lynch, Stephen F. [MA-9] (introduced 4/19/07). Cosponsors (11). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R.1969: Montgomery G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to exempt from payment of individual contributions under the Montgomery GI Bill enlisted members of the Armed Forces in pay grade E-5 or below and to provide an opportunity for members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty to withdraw an election not to enroll in education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill. Sponsor: Rep Terry, Lee [NE-2] (introduced 4/19/07). Cosponsors (4). Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined

by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.2005: Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Salazar, John T. [CO-3] (introduced 4/23/07). Cosponsors (45). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.2026: Disabled Veterans Insurance Act of 2007. A bill to amend section 1922A of title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of supplemental insurance available for totally disabled veterans. Sponsor: Rep Jones, Walter B., Jr. [NC-3] (introduced 4/25/07). Cosponsors (1). Companion bill S.1315. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2027: Military Pay Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to provide an additional 0.5 percent increase in the rates of military basic pay for members of the uniformed services above the pay increase proposed by the Department of Defense so as to ensure at least a minimum pay increase of 3.5 percent for members and to further narrow the "pay gap" that exists between the military and private sector pay scales. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 4/25/07). Cosponsors (9). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2044: Cadet and Midshipman Disability Fairness Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend eligibility for disability retired pay and separation pay to former cadets and midshipmen with prior enlisted service who incurred physical disabilities after January 1, 2000. Sponsor: Rep Stupak, Bart [MI-1] (introduced 4/25/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2048: Traumatic Brain Injury Access to Options Act. A bill to facilitate the provision of care and services for members of the Armed Forces for traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Donnelly, Joe [IN-2] (introduced 4/26/07). Cosponsors (7). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2059: A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to provide members of the National Guard additional time to transition to civilian life when they return from active duty in support of contingency operations or homeland defense missions. Sponsor: Rep Hooley, Darlene [OR-5] (introduced 4/26/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2064: Compassionate Care for Servicewomen Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require emergency contraception to be available at all military health care treatment facilities. Sponsor: Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2] (introduced 4/26/07). Cosponsors (34). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2179: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish traumatic brain injury centers. Sponsor: Rep Walz, Timothy J. [MN-1] (introduced 5/3/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2189: Military Health Services Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to require pre-and post-deployment mental health screenings for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep DeLauro, Rosa L. [CT-3] (introduced 5/7/07). Cosponsors (39). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2190: Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans. Sponsor: Rep Donnelly, Joe [IN-2] (introduced 5/7/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2192: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Hodes, Paul W. [NH-2] (introduced 5/7/07). Cosponsors (40). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.2195: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the education loan repayment program for members of the Selected Reserve. Sponsor: Rep Murphy, Patrick J. [PA-8] (introduced 5/7/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2219: Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline Act of 2007. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award a grant to a private, nonprofit entity to establish, publicize, and operate a national toll-free suicide prevention telephone hotline targeted to and staffed by veterans of the Armed Forces. Sponsor: Rep Moran, James P. [VA-8] (introduced 5/8/07). Cosponsors (26). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.2226: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans through the use of mobile centers. Sponsor: Rep Welch, Peter [VT] (introduced 5/8/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2239: Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act . A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Boozman, John [AR-3] (introduced 5/9/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2247: Montgomery GI Bill for Life Act of 2007. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to repeal the 10-year limit on use of Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance benefits, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Larsen, Rick [WA-2] (introduced 5/9/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2257: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the number of benefits claims representatives employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to ensure that there are not fewer than two such claims representatives located at each center for the provision of readjustment counseling and related mental health services established under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code (commonly referred to as a "vet center"), to help reduce the backlog of claims pending with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Welch, Peter [VT] (introduced 5/9/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2259: A bill to ensure that members of the National Guard and Reserves are able to fully participate in the benefits delivery at discharge program administered jointly by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide information and assistance on available benefits and other transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces. Sponsor: Rep Welch, Peter [VT] (introduced 5/9/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2267: A bill to expand retroactive eligibility of the Army Combat Action Badge to include members of the Army who participated in combat during which they personally engaged, or were personally engaged by, the enemy at any time on or after December 7, 1941. Sponsor: Rep Brown-Waite, Ginny [FL-5] (introduced 5/10/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2292 : Pay Veterans First Act. A bill to prohibit the payment of bonuses to certain officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless fewer than 100,000 disability compensation claims are pending before the Department. Sponsor: Rep Hall, John J. [NY-19] (introduced 5/14/07). Cosponsors (19). Status:

Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.2319: TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy Pilot Program Act. A bill to establish a Mail-Order Pharmacy Pilot Program. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 5/15/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2330: VETS Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for hiring veterans. Sponsor: Rep McCotter, Thaddeus G. [MI-11] (introduced 5/15/07). Cosponsors (13). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.2346: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a process for determining whether a geographic area is sufficiently served by the national cemeteries located in that geographic area. Sponsor: Rep Fossella, Vito [NY-13] (introduced 5/16/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2355: Reservists and Guardsmen Tax Relief Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the authority for penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans by military reservists or national guardsmen called to active duty for extended periods. Sponsor: Rep Weldon, Dave [FL-15] (introduced 5/16/2007). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.2378: Services to Prevent Veterans Homelessness Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Herseth Sandlin, Stephanie [SD] (introduced 5/17/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2385: 21st Century GI Bill of Rights Act of 2007. A bill to provide and enhance education, housing, and entrepreneur assistance for veterans who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Murphy, Patrick J. [PA-8] (introduced 5/17/07). Cosponsors (2). Companion bill S.1401. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2417: Montgomery GI Bill Second Chance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to provide for an opportunity for active duty personnel to withdraw an election not to participate in the program of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill. Sponsor: Rep Visclosky, Peter J. [IN-1] (introduced 5/21/07). Cosponsors (45). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2434: Veterans Right to Know Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide regular notice to individuals submitting claims for benefits administered by the Secretary on the status of such claims. Sponsor: Rep Drake, Thelma D. [VA-2] (introduced 5/22/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2475: Veteran Home Equity Conversation Mortgage Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to guarantee home equity conversion mortgages for elderly veteran homeowners. Sponsor: Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2] (introduced 5/24/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

H.R.2495: Disabled Veterans Commissary and Exchange Store Benefits Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend military commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans with a compensable service-connected disability and to their dependents. Sponsor: Rep Burton, Dan [IN-5]

(introduced 5/24/2007). Cosponsors (13). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9899926&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9899926&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.2514: Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care. Sponsor: Rep Hare, Phil [IL-17] (introduced 5/24/07). Cosponsors (77). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2540: Honoring Existing Retirement Obligations for Every Servicemember Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United State Code to provide for the treatment of period of service in uniformed services as continued employment for purposes of pension and retirement benefits for individuals who die during the period of service. Sponsor: Rep Pomeroy, Earl [ND] (introduced 5/24/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2551: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery in Sarpy County, Nebraska, to serve veterans in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. Sponsor: Rep Terry, Lee [NE-2] (introduced 5/24/07). Cosponsors (3). Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.2585: A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify Medicare physician reimbursement policies to ensure a future physician workforce, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Burgess, Michael C. [TX-26] (introduced 6/6/07). Cosponsors (12). Status: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.2612: Mental Health Care for Our Wounded Warriors Act. A bill to improve mental health care for wounded members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Susan A. [CA-53] (introduced 6/7/07). Cosponsors (15). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9914821&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9914821&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.2623: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of copayments for all hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Miller, Jeff [FL-1] (introduced 6/7/07). Cosponsors (1). 7/27/2007 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 169.

H.R.2642: Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2008. A bill to make appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Edwards, Chet [TX-17] (introduced 6/11/07). Cosponsors (None). Received in the Senate 6/18/07. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 207.

H.R.2689: A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program for the provision of readjustment and mental health services to veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Rodriguez, Ciro D. [TX-23] (introduced 6/12/07). Cosponsors (6). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2696: Veterans' Dignified Burial Assistance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase assistance for veterans interred in cemeteries other than national cemeteries, and for

other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Lamborn, Doug [CO-5] (introduced 6/13/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2697: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for veterans' mortgage life insurance to include members of the Armed Forces receiving specially adapted housing assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Lamborn, Doug [CO-5] (introduced 6/13/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2699: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal authority for adjustments to per diem payments to homeless veterans service centers for receipt of other sources of income, to extend authorities for certain programs to benefit homeless veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Murphy, Patrick J. [PA-8] (introduced 6/13/07). Cosponsors (3). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2702: **Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007**. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Scott, Robert C. [VA-3] (introduced 6/13/07). Cosponsors (22). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2721: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop, and the Secretary of Defense to distribute to members of the Armed Forces upon their discharge or release from active duty, information in a compact disk read-only memory format that lists and explains the health, education, and other benefits for which veterans are eligible under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Cardoza, Dennis A. [CA-18] (introduced 6/14/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2795: **Reasonable Rates for Veterans Act**. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to set the rate of reimbursement under the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs at \$0.21 per mile. Sponsor: Rep Pearce, Stevan [NM-2] (introduced 6/20/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2855: **Wounded Heroes' Bill of Rights Act**. A bill to provide for transitional emergency assistance to certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are severely injured while serving on active duty, to expand and improve programs for caregiver services for those members and veterans, to require improved screening and care for traumatic brain injury for returning servicemembers and veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Rodriguez, Ciro D. [TX-23] (introduced 6/25/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.2874: **Veterans' Health Care Improvement Act of 2007**. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2] (introduced 6/27/07). Cosponsors (23). Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote. 7/27/2007 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 170.

H.R.2910: **VETS Act of 2007**. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for reimbursement to members of the Armed Forces of tuition for programs of education delayed by military service, for deferment of students loans and reduced interest rates for members of the Armed Forces during periods of military service, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Susan A. [CA-53] (introduced 6/28/07). Cosponsors (23). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2943: **Benefit Rating Acceleration for Veteran Entitlements Act of 2007**. A bill to amend titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of disability rated and certified as total by

the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as disability for purposes of such titles. Sponsor: Rep Sarbanes, John P. [MD-3] (introduced 6/28/07). Cosponsors (45). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=10020981&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=10020981&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.2996: Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide a dislocation allowance under section 407 of such title to retired members of the uniformed services, including members placed on the temporary disability retired list, moving from their last duty station to their designated home. Sponsor: Rep Drake, Thelma D. [VA-2] (introduced 7/11/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.3008: Rural Veterans Services Outreach and Training Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve services for veterans residing in rural areas. Sponsor: Rep Wu, David [OR-1] (introduced 7/11/07). Cosponsors (10). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.3040: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill to veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math. Sponsor: Rep Space, Zachary T. [OH-18] (introduced 7/12/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.3046: Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance Social Security account number privacy protections, to prevent fraudulent misuse of the Social Security account number, and to otherwise enhance protection against identity theft, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep McNulty, Michael R. [NY-21] (introduced 7/16/07). Cosponsors (44). Status: Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.

H.R.3047: Veterans Claims Processing Innovation Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of claims for benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Lamborn, Doug [CO-5] (introduced 7/16/07). Cosponsors (19). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.3070: Disabled Veterans' Caregiver Compensation Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize additional compensation to be paid to certain veterans in receipt of compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling for whom a family member dependent on the veteran for support provides care. Sponsor: Rep Peterson, Collin C. [MN-7] (introduced 7/17/07). Cosponsors (3). Status: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.3099: National Guard and Reserve Higher Education Fairness Act. A bill to amend title 10, to permit members of the Selected Reserves and members of the reserve component to reenter their military service and receive chapter 1607 education benefits if that member has earned such benefit before originally separating from service. Sponsor: Rep Carney, Christopher P. [PA-10] (introduced 7/19/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.3103: Veteran's Choice in Nursing Home Care Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide partial payment for nursing home care to eligible veterans at a non-Department of Veterans Affairs nursing home of the veteran's choice, and for other

purposes. Sponsor: Rep Drake, Thelma D. [VA-2] (introduced 7/19/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.3128: A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility of using military identification numbers instead of social security numbers to identify members of the Armed Forces.

Sponsor: Rep Gohmert, Louie [TX-1] (introduced 7/23/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.3191: Wounded Warrior Information Sharing Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the transfer of certain contact information for a member of the Armed Forces who is being medically separated or retired under chapter 61 of such title to the department or agency for veterans affairs of the State in which the member intends to reside. Sponsor: Rep Courtney, Joe [CT-2] (introduced 7/26/07). Cosponsors (9). Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

H.R.3210: Wounded Warriors Expansion of Care Act of 2007. A bill to provide medical care and other benefits for members and former members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses. Sponsor: Rep Donnelly, Joe [IN-2] (introduced 7/27/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Senate Bills

S.0022: Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Webb, Jim [VA] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (19). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9242071>

S.0038: A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program for the provision of readjustment and mental health services to veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Domenici, Pete V. [NM] (introduced 5/23/07). Cosponsors (6). Companion Bill is H.R.0025. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0057: Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (15). Companion bill H.R.0760. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0066: A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to determine the validity of the claims of certain Filipinos that they performed military service on behalf of the United States during World War II.

Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0067: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft. Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (6). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.0071: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize certain disabled former prisoners of war (POWs) to use DoD commissary and exchange stores. Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.0117: Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for members of the Armed Forces, veterans of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), and other veterans, to require reports on the effects of the GWOT, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (15). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0161: Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans. Sponsor: Sen Thune, John [SD] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9568626&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9568626&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.0207: Voluntary Support for Reservists and National Guard Members Act. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate part or all of any income tax refund to support reservists and National Guard members. Sponsor: Sen Coleman, Norm [MN] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

S.0225: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. It would expand retroactive payments of traumatic injury insurance to servicemembers injured outside a combat area between 10 OCT 01 and 1 DEC 05. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (3). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9242246>

S.0326: Disabled Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special period of limitation when uniformed services retirement pay is reduced as result of award of disability compensation. Sponsor: Sen Lincoln, Blanche L. [AR] (introduced 1/17/07). Cosponsors (28). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9294921>

S.0383: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (4). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0415: Veterans' Memorials ... Protection Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that among other things will stop the award of taxpayer dollars in legal fees to groups filing lawsuits against veterans' memorials and public displays of religion. Sponsor: Sen Brownback, Sam [KS] (introduced 1/29/07). Cosponsors (18). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S.0423: Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/29/07). Cosponsors (10). 7/24/2007 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 283.

S.0439: Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the VA for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation. Sponsor: Sen Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 1/31/07). Cosponsors (26). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.0479: Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. A bill to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans. Sponsor: Sen Harkin, Tom [IA] (introduced 2/1/07). Cosponsors (31). 7/23/2007 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 279.

S.0604: Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the certain costs of health care services under the health care programs of DoD, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Lautenberg, Frank R. [NJ] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (18). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9388371&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9388371&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]).

S.0617: Veterans Eagle Parks Pass Act. A bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans. Sponsor: Sen Smith, Gordon H. [OR] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (10). Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Senate Subcommittee on National Parks. Hearings held.

S.0643: Disabled Veterans Insurance Act of 2007. A bill to amend section 1922A of title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of supplemental insurance available for totally disabled veterans. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0644: Total Force Montgomery GI Bill. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recodify as part of that title certain educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve such programs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Lincoln, Blanche L. [AR] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (16). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.0648: National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the eligibility age for receipt of non-regular military service retired pay for members of the Ready Reserve in active federal status or on active duty for significant periods. Sponsor: Sen Chambliss, Saxby [GA] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (14). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.0659: A bill to amend section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, to provide for the payment of the death gratuity with respect to members of the Armed Forces without a surviving spouse who are survived by a minor child. Sponsor: Sen Hagel, Chuck [NE] (introduced 2/16/07). Cosponsors (6). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. Companion Bill is H.R.1115. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423746&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423746&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.0671: Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act. A bill to exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 2/16/07). Cosponsors (10). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S.0713: Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act. A bill to ensure dignity in care for members of the Armed Forces recovering from injuries. Sponsor: Sen Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 2/28/07). Cosponsors (34). Companion Bill is H.R.1268. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9454946&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9454946&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.0723: Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act of 2007. A bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Hagel, Chuck [NE] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.0773: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums. Sponsor: Sen Warner, John [VA] (introduced 3/6/07). Cosponsors (44). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. Companion bill to H.R.1110. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=9598891&type=CO>

S.0793: Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. A bill to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs. Sponsor: Sen Hatch, Orrin G. [UT] (introduced 3/7/07). Cosponsors (19). Companion bill to H.R.1418. Status: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

S.0815: Veterans Health Care Empowerment Act of 2007. A bill to provide health care benefits to veterans with a service-connected disability at non-DVA medical facilities that receive payments under the Medicare program or the TRICARE program. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 3/8/07). Cosponsors (3). Companion bill to H.R.1416. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0847: A bill to extend the period of time during which a veteran's multiple sclerosis is to be considered to have been incurred in, or aggravated by, military service during a period of war. Sponsor: Sen Murray, Patty [WA] (introduced 3/13/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0848: Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war. Sponsor: Sen Murray, Patty [WA] (introduced 3/13/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0882: A bill to require a pilot program on the facilitation of the transition of members of the Armed Forces to receipt of veterans health care benefits upon completion of military service, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Menendez, Robert [NJ] (introduced 3/14/07). Cosponsors (7). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0935: A bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Nelson, Bill [FL] (introduced 3/20/07). Cosponsors (39). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9549971&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9549971&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.0961: Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Nelson, E. Benjamin [NE] (introduced 3/22/07).

Cosponsors (45). Companion bill H.R.0023. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.0986: Combat-Related Special Compensation Act of 2007. A bill to expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the DVA for that disability and Combat-Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability. Sponsor: Sen Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 3/26/07). Cosponsors (4). Companion bill H.R.0089. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9581151&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9581151&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.0994: Disabled Veterans Fairness Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the deductible and change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Tester, Jon [MT] (introduced 3/27/07). Cosponsors (9). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1005: Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve programs for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Kerry, John F. [MA] (introduced 3/28/07). Cosponsors (4). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

S.1065: Heroes at Home Act of 2007. A bill to improve the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury in members and former members of the Armed Forces, to review and expand telehealth and telemental health programs of the DoD and the DVA. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 3/29/07). Cosponsors (8). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1084: Homes for Heroes Act of 2007. A bill to provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans. Sponsor: Sen Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 4/10/07). Cosponsors (8). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

S.1096: Veterans Housing Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain housing benefits to disabled members of the Armed Forces, to expand certain benefits for disabled veterans with severe burns, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Cornyn, John [TX] (introduced 4/12/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1097: Cold War Medal Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War era. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 4/12/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1146: Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Salazar, Ken [CO] (introduced 4/18/07). Cosponsors (25). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=10064941&queueid=1314882681.](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=10064941&queueid=1314882681)

S.1147: Honor Our Commitment to Veterans Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for enrollment (referred to as "Priority 8").

Sponsor: Sen Murray, Patty [WA] (introduced 4/18/07). Cosponsors (4). Companion Bill H.R.0463.
Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1163: Blinded Veterans Paired Organ Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation and specially adapted housing for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, and to provide for the use of the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 4/19/2007). Cosponsors (6). Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

S.1196: Mental Health Care for Our Wounded Warriors Act. A bill to improve mental health care for wounded members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Lieberman, Joseph I. [CT] (introduced 4/24/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1205: A bill to require a pilot program on assisting veterans service organizations and other veterans groups in developing and promoting peer support programs that facilitate community reintegration of veterans returning from active duty, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Smith, Gordon H. [OR] (introduced 4/25/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1233: Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation Act of 2007. A bill to provide and enhance intervention, rehabilitative treatment, and services to veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 4/26/07). Cosponsors (7). Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with amendments favorably.

S.1243: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for nonregular service from 60 years of age to 55 years of age. Sponsor: Sen Kerry, John F. [MA] (introduced 4/26/07). Cosponsors (6). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1252: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for uniformity in the awarding of disability ratings for wounds or injuries incurred by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 4/30/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9769981&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9769981&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.1265: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for veterans' mortgage life insurance to include members of the Armed Forces receiving specially adapted housing assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 5/2/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1266: Veterans' Dignified Burial Assistance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase assistance for veterans interred in cemeteries other than national cemeteries, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 5/2/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1283: Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Pryor, Mark L. [AR] (introduced 5/3/07). Cosponsors (2). Companion Bill H.R.1538. Passed by Senate and referred to a Senate/House compromise committee.

S.1293: Veterans' Education and Vocational Benefits Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve educational assistance for members and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 5/3/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1314: Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Feingold, Russell D. [WI] (introduced 5/7/07). Cosponsors (1). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1315: Disabled Veterans Insurance Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 5/7/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with amendments favorably. Companion bill H.R.2026.

S.1326: Comprehensive Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance compensation and pension, health care, housing, burial, and other benefits for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Bernard Sanders [I-VT] (introduced 5/8/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=10072701&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=10072701&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]).

S.1349: Military and Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act. A bill to ensure that the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs provide to members of the Armed Forces and veterans with traumatic brain injury the services that best meet their individual needs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Durbin, Richard [IL] (introduced 5/9/07). Cosponsors (9). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1363: Bridging the Gap for Wounded Warriors Act. A bill to improve health care for severely injured members and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 5/10/07). Cosponsors (6). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1409: 21st Century GI Bill of Rights Act of 2007. A bill to provide and enhance education, housing, and entrepreneur assistance for veterans who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 5/16/07). Cosponsors (2). Companion bill H.R.2385. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1441: State Veterans Home Modernization Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept new applications for grants for State home construction projects to authorize the Secretary to award grants for construction of facilities used in non-institutional care programs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 5/21/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1444: Supply Our Soldiers Act of 2007. A bill to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 5/22/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs referred to Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/naus/issues/alert/?alertid=9933621&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/naus/issues/alert/?alertid=9933621&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.1454: Veterans Burial Benefits Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Mikulski, Barbara A. [MD] (introduced 5/23/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1468: Veterans Burial Benefits Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Mikulski, Barbara A. [MD] (introduced 5/23/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1480: Gold Star Parents Annuity Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of a monthly stipend to the surviving parents (known as "Gold Star parents") of members of the Armed Forces who die during a period of war. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 5/24/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1481: Fair and Reliable Medical Justice Act. A bill to restore fairness and reliability to the medical justice system and promote patient safety by fostering alternatives to current medical tort litigation, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Baucus, Max [MT] (introduced 5/24/07). Cosponsors (2). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S.1569: Veterans Advocacy Act of 2007. A bill to establish a pilot program on the provision of legal services to assist veterans and members of the Armed Forces receive health care, benefits and services, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Feingold, Russell D. [WI] (introduced 6/7/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1606: Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act. A bill to provide for the establishment of a comprehensive policy on the care and management of wounded warriors in order to facilitate and enhance their care, rehabilitation, physical evaluation, transition from care by the Department of Defense to care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and transition from military service to civilian life, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Levin, Carl [MI] (introduced 6/13/07). Cosponsors (46). 6/18/07 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 203.

S.1645: Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008. An original bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Reed, Jack [RI] (introduced 6/18/07). Cosponsors (None). 6/18/2007 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 205.

S.1670: Servicemembers' Healthcare Benefits and Rehabilitation Enhancement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care for members of the Armed Forces, to improve the speed and efficiency of the physical disability evaluation system of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Snowe, Olympia J. [ME] (introduced 6/20/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1688: Higher Education Opportunity for Our National Guard and Reserve Soldiers Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend the time limit for the use of education assistance by members of the Selected Reserve and members of the reserve component supporting contingency operations and certain other operations. Sponsor: Sen Casey, Robert P., Jr. [PA] (introduced 6/25/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1718: VETS Act. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for reimbursement to servicemembers of tuition for programs of education interrupted by military service, for deferment of

students loans and reduced interest rates for servicemembers during periods of military service, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Brown, Sherrod [OH] (introduced 6/27/07). Cosponsors (6). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1719: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill to veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math. Sponsor: Sen Brown, Sherrod [OH] (introduced 6/27/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1757: Veterans' Authorities Expansion Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend or make permanent certain authorities for veterans' benefits, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (by request) (introduced 7/10/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.1763: Cold War Medal Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War era. Sponsor: Sen Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 7/11/2007). Cosponsors (1). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

S.1784: Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve programs for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Kerry, John F. [MA] (introduced 7/12/07). Cosponsors (5). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

S.1822: Interest Relief Act. A bill to amend the Federal Direct Loan Program to provide that interest shall not accrue on Federal Direct Loans for active duty service members and their spouses. Sponsor: Sen Bayh, Evan [IN] (introduced 7/19/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S.1877: A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to prescribe that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of flag. Sponsor: Sen Inhofe, James M. [OK] (introduced 7/25/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

S.1879: A bill to amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to reduce the minimum age of retirement for years of non-regular service for reserves who serve on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, to increase the amount of educational assistance for members of the Selected Reserve, and to provide certain other benefits relating to service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen Schumer, Charles E. [NY] (introduced 7/26/07). Cosponsors (None). Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

[Source: <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/110search.html> 30 Jul 07 ++]