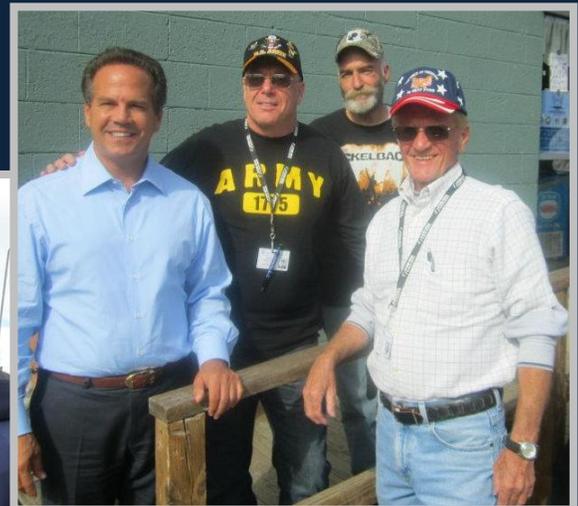


CONGRESSMAN DAVID CICILLINE

REPRESENTING THE FIRST DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND



VETERANS



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PROTECTING THOSE WHO SERVED

I have been fighting hard in Congress to make sure that our country recognizes the sacrifices of our veterans and takes care of them after they return home.

EXPANDING VETERANS HEALTHCARE

That's why I cosponsored the **Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act, (H.R. 198)**. This compassionate legislation would require the VA to implement a pilot program to provide treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder through therapeutic service dog training and handling. Under the program, service dogs would also help veterans with physical disabilities with everyday tasks. This legislation was ultimately combined with several other bills into the **Veterans Sexual Assault Prevention and Health Care Enhancement Act (H.R. 2074)**, which passed the House by a voice vote on October 11, 2011, and now awaits action in the Senate.

In addition, we need to continue to improve and expand Veterans' access to proper health care. I joined my colleagues in writing to Defense Secretary Gates in support of providing access to cognitive rehabilitation for Traumatic Brain Injury under TRICARE. (**Letter to Secretary Gates**)

PROTECTING VETERANS BENEFITS

I have co-sponsored legislation, the **Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act (H.R. 333)**, that would fix concurrent receipt problems, and ensure retirement benefits are no longer offset by any disability benefits received. I believe that we need to put an end to the "widows tax" that reduces survivor benefits by any Dependency and Indemnity Compensation received, and have co-sponsored the **Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act (H.R. 178)**.



JUSTICE FOR VETERANS

I sponsored the **Services, Education, and Rehabilitation for Veterans (SERV) Act (H.R. 2026)**, originally introduced by Representative Patrick Kennedy, which would provide grants to state and local governments to create or improve veteran's treatment courts or expand operational drug courts serving veterans.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

I co-sponsored the **Veterans Employment Transition Act (H.R. 865)** that would expand the incentives of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to businesses that hire Veterans.





“Congress must act to provide our veterans with greater opportunities to achieve stability when returning home – that includes housing assistance, access to education and training, and incentives for businesses that employ service members recently returning from combat.”



DEFENDING VETERANS HOUSING

I joined my colleagues in Congress in writing to legislative and Administrative leaders urging investigation and punishment for the overcharging and wrongly foreclosing on military members. (**Letter to Financial Services Chairman Spencer Bachus and Letter to Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke & Comptroller of the Currency Walsh**)

I also joined my colleagues in writing to appropriators supporting President Obama’s request for 10,000 new HUD-VASH housing vouchers for veterans to help provide shelter for our struggling veterans. (**Letter to House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver**)

EDUCATING OUR VETERANS &

I have co-sponsored legislation that would support educating our Veterans and their families, including : the **Military Families Financial Preparedness Act (H.R. 535)**, which would enhance the role of financial counseling for retiring and separating military members, as well as the **Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Dependent Coverage Improvement Act (H.R. 614)**, which would provide better access to dependent children using their parents’ Post 9/11 G.I. Bill educational benefits.

HONOR & REMEMBER

The **Honor and Remember Flag Recognition Act (H.R. 546)** , legislation I co-sponsored, would recognize the Honor and Remember Flag as the official symbol of our country’s concern and commitment to honoring and remembering all members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.

“The men and women who have served in the Armed Forces have made tremendous sacrifices in the name of freedom and in the advancement of our nation’s security. For their courage and commitment, and for the burdens borne by their families, our veterans and their loved ones must receive the support and services they rightfully deserve. I will continue to fight for veterans to ensure they have access to a range of resources in health care, housing, employment, mental health services, and education.”



David N. Cicilline

David N. Cicilline
Rhode Island - 01

My office can help with claims for VA pensions, disability benefits, care in VA Medical Centers and obtaining military records. For more information on the services my office provides, please visit my website at:

WWW.CICILLINE.HOUSE.GOV

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