

Legislative Update to Constituents

from U.S. Representative Bill Posey
Florida's 8th District

CONSTITUENT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 11, 2019

Dear Friend,

No words can express our nation's sincere gratitude to our military service members, and their families, who have answered the call to serve our country. Since the Revolutionary War, which secured the independence of our great nation, over 1.3 million brave Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom and ensure the survival of our nation.



Rep. Posey discusses defense issues with the Space Coast Chapter of Women in Defense.

On Veterans Day we recognize the struggle for peace and freedom brought to our lands due to the courage and sacrifices of our military veterans and their families. There are those who fight because they can't live in peace, but we salute our brave men and women of our armed forces because they want to see peace in our time. Honoring America's commitment to our veterans and supporting our troops must be a top priority.

If you know of any veteran in our community who is having trouble with VA services, please reach out to them and encourage them to contact my office in Brevard County at 321-632-1776 or Indian River County 772-226-1701. In fact, please call us if you are having trouble with any federal agency – the VA, the Social Security Administration, Medicare or even the IRS. My staff and I are here to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Posey".

Bill Posey

Member of Congress

ASSISTING VETERANS**Veteran Spotlight: U.S. Army 1st Lt. William A. Warner Jr.**

Ms. Jeanne Hall of Melbourne recently approached our office about acquiring any records and medals from her late father William Warner's military service during World War II. Lt. Warner (Pictured Left) courageously served our nation in Germany where he bravely lead his squad in an assault on enemy forces, ultimately resulting in his death. Original records of these events were destroyed in a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center, leaving his family with many unanswered questions.

About 74 years later, our office was successful in obtaining records from the National Archives confirming Lt. Warner's Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart for his daughter, who was just 3 years old when he died defending our freedom. Additionally, Hall received her father's European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one bronze service star, World War II Victory Medal and Presidential Unit Citation. Our nation is grateful for Lt. Warner's service and sacrifice, as well as the sacrifice made by his family.

VETERANS LEGISLATIVE ACTION**Increased Economic Opportunities for Veterans:**

- **Improving the GI Bill** – Cosponsored the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, which removed time restrictions enabling future eligible recipients to use their GI bill benefits for their entire lives. (Public Law 115-48)
- **Increasing Veteran Employment Opportunities** – Supported H.R. 978, which gives preference to government contractors who employ veterans fulltime and disqualifies contractors who misrepresent their veteran status.
- **Transitioning from Military Jobs to Civilian Jobs** – Voted for passage of The Veterans Skills to Jobs Act, requiring federal agencies to accept military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification



requirements for federal licenses. (Public Law 112-147)

Meeting Critical Medical Needs of Veterans:

- **Meeting the Needs of Surviving Spouses** – Ending the practice of reducing Survivor Benefit Program benefits by the amount received in Dependence and Indemnity Compensation. (Cosponsored H.R. 846)
- **Combating Veterans Suicide** – Supported legislation (H.R. 4173) to require the VA to conduct a study on the outcomes and efficacy of the Veterans Crisis Line.
- **Service Dogs** – cosponsored the PAWS Act (Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act) to create a pilot program that would provide service dogs to select veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Improving the VA Experience and Protecting Veteran's Rights:

- **Modernizing the Veterans Appeals Process** – Supported the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, which modernizes the appeals process at the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow for faster appeals decisions for veterans. (Public Law 115-55)
- **VA Accountability** – Supported the VA Accountability First Act, which gives the VA Secretary increased flexibility to remove, demote, or suspend any VA employee for performance issues or misconduct.
- **VA ID Card** – Cosponsored legislation signed into law enabling veterans to obtain identification cards from the Department of Veterans Affairs. (Public Law 114-31)

FIGHTING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Helping Homeless Veterans Get Back on Their Feet

We owe our nation's military veterans a great debt of gratitude, and we, as a nation, have an obligation to keep the promises made to our men and women in uniform. It is the responsibility of this country to make sure that our veterans are cared for during active service and in their retirement. As such, Rep. Posey has supported legislation to help veterans who have fallen on hard times and are homeless:

- **Serving Homeless Veterans with Children** – Cosponsored and voted for the *Homeless Veteran Families Act*, (H.R. 95) bipartisan legislation to



Rep. Posey talks military issues with volunteers at a USO event at the U.S. Capitol.

help homeless veterans with dependent minor children afford safe housing and have a shot at a stable living situation.

- **Helping Homeless Veterans Get Back on Their Feet** – Supported the *Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act* (H.R. 4451 – 115th Congress). This legislation has two goals: To assist veterans in achieving meaningful employment and to help fight homelessness among our nation's veterans.
- **Increasing Affordable Housing Options for Veterans** – Supported the *Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act* (H.R. 1816 – 115th Congress), which makes important changes to exclude payments made by the VA to veterans' health-care providers from counting toward the veterans' gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for Section 8 voucher and public housing programs.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Need Help With A Federal Government Agency

Rep. Posey and his staff are here to help veterans navigate federal agencies, to assist in obtaining medals and securing Defense Dept. records, and to help veterans address concerns with the VA.



If you know of any veteran in our community who is having trouble with VA services, please reach out to them and encourage them to contact our office in Viera 321-632-1776, Titusville 321-383-6090 or Vero Beach 772-226-1701.

This update was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense. It is provided as a service to 8th Congressional District constituents.