

SOUND OFF!



VOL. I, NO 5

THE NEWSLETTER OF VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC.

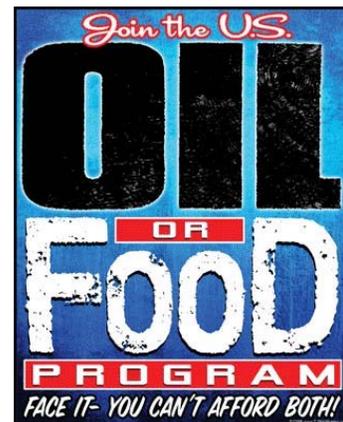
25 SEPTEMBER 2005

FIRST CALL - THEME OF THE ISSUE AND/OR CLIPS & QUOTES

Katrina, Rita and John Roberts have taken the attention away from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. On my news feeds, only about 1 in every 30 articles even referred to the war, and almost every one of those was from the foreign press. Almost none dealt with our mission of the plight of the troops, on the ground and at home, and their families. Only one dealt with legislation in favor of them.

There were far more articles on the price of gas than on the price of conflict, and apparently far more interest in gas prices than in the war by the general public.

So, in this issue we can concentrate on the troops, even if the rest of the world isn't. In particular we want to focus on current and pending legislation, and give our readers some help in identifying current Congressional bills that may need our support through correspondence and phone calls. A special two-page section has been added at the end to give the current list of federal bills and their status. We will refresh this list from time to time. In the future we will maintain this list on the website.



"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."

--Edmund Burke

AND A THOUGHT ON THE OTHER GUY'S POINT OF VIEW AND HOW IT MIGHT BE AFFECTING OUR TROOPS AT WAR

If I were an American, as I am an Englishman, while a foreign troop was landed in my country, I never would lay down my arms! -Never! Never! Never!

William Pitt - - November 18th 1777
From a speech in Parliament

REVEILLE - WAKE-UP CALLS

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU! SOUND FAMILIAR?

TRANSFORMATION OFFICE TO STREAMLINE MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM

By Samantha L. Quigley - American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16, 2005 – Servicemembers can rest easy that their health care benefits will only improve with the chartering of the Military Health System Office of Transformation, the director of the new office said today.

"It's important that servicemembers and (their) families know that they are meant to be the focus of this patient-oriented system of the future," Rear Adm. John Mateczun, Navy deputy surgeon general, said. "There is no intent to lessen the health care delivery that they would see today."

He said patients of the military health care system should notice a more patient-focused manner of delivering service.

The Defense Department announced Aug. 31 that acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon R. England had chartered the new office to reform military health services. Eight people will make up the new office: two each from the Army, Navy and Air Force, and two from the Tricare Management Activity. <More at http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2005/20050916_2759.html>

VA SAYS THAT THIS MEANS THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER!

"As recently as Aug. 22, the VA said the backlog of compensation and pension claims nationwide totaled 349,841. Every year, the VA processes about 800,000 disability claims. "

<More at http://www.sptimes.com/2005/09/06/news_pf/Tampabay/Fight_over_veterans_b.shtml>

ASSEMBLY - PROGRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Plans are moving along for our California Legislative Action Day, tentatively set for 11 November 2005. We are interested in contacting veterans in the following California districts where members of the Veterans' Affairs Committees reside: Senate Districts 38 (San Diego, Orange); 32 (Los Angeles, San Bernardino); 2 (Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, Sonoma); 12 (Madera, Merced, San Benito, Stanislaus, Monterey); 34 (Orange). Also in the following Assembly districts: 6 (Marin); 70 (Orange); 11 (Contra Costa); 57 (Los Angeles); 7 (Napa, Sonoma, Solano); 55 (Los Angeles); 75 (San Diego); 36 (San Bernardino); 76 (San Diego). Let the Chair know at rhandy@vuft.org.

We hope that other members in other states will take a look at what we in California plan to do and schedule their own confrontations with their Veterans' Affairs Committees. We have to get these people moving!

REMINDER: Part of our task is to expand our current anecdotal evidence of the failure of the system to include factual and referenced instances of such failures. If you know of specific cases of failure of service to any current or past veteran of our wars, or their families, please forward the information to muren@vuft.org, with a copy to the editor at scook@vuft.org.

MAIL CALL - LETTERS FROM MEMBERS AND OTHERS

A letter to the chair from Pete McCloskey, former Congressman, Retired Col USMC, and a member of VUFTs Advisory Board.

Bob:

Everywhere across the U.S. I hear that veterans are being turned away or delayed in seeking treatment at VA hospitals, particularly those claiming PMSD. When I was in Congress (1967-1982) I had the Palo Alto and Menlo Park VA hospitals in my district, and sometimes ran across a mindset at the VA that the Viet Nam vets were crybabies. Has this extended now to the first Gulf War and Iraq veterans? If you have any specific cases from any VA hospital, we can put it to use against these ... congressmen who have repeatedly voted for huge deficits and also to cut veterans' health care. We are having a major veterans' rally in Sacramento on October 29 and another in late November or early December. The more vets you know who would be willing to participate up here, the better.

Pete.

RECALL - FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION

See the added two-pager at the end of the newsletter

RETREAT - NEWS

KATRINA/RITA NEWS

NETWORK PROVIDES RELIEF FOR HURRICANE'S MILITARY VICTIMS

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Tacoma, WA - Saturday, September 17, 2005

The number of service people displaced by Hurricane Katrina was still being calculated more than two weeks after the storm devastated coastal Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. But clearly thousands of active duty members, reservists and retirees had lost homes, cars and other property.

Indeed, when military victims of Katrina finally are counted, they likely will outnumber the 72,000 National Guard and active duty forces deployed to the tri-state area to assist with rescue, relief and security operations.

<More at <http://www.thenewstribune.com/business/story/5185212p-4713284c.html>>

GOP MEMBERS PROPOSE MILITARY CUTS TO OFFSET KATRINA COSTS

By Rick Maze - Times staff writer - Navy Times - September 21, 2005

A group of House Republicans have proposed a plan to offset the costs of relief and rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina that includes trimming military quality-of-life programs, including health care.

Possible sources of funding cuts to free up money for Katrina relief include reduced health benefits, consolidation of the three military exchange systems and the closure of the military's stateside school system. ...

Their offset list includes three provisions aimed at military quality-of-life programs:

- Service members would be offered cash if they are willing to accept reduced health care benefits for their families. "The less comprehensive plan would encourage individuals to be more cost-conscious when purchasing health care products by including deductibles, co-payments and a maximum annual out-of-pocket expenditure limit," according to a written explanation provided by the study group. Reduced health care benefits could save \$2.4 billion over 10 years.
- The three separate military exchange systems could be consolidated, saving up to \$1.9 billion over 10 years, the study group says. The Army and Air Force share an exchange system, AAFES, while the Navy and Marine Corps have their own systems. "Consolidating ... would eliminate inefficiencies from duplicative purchasing, different personnel departments, warehouse and inventory systems and management headquarters while retaining the current ability for service members and their families to receive a wide selection of goods at a low price," the statement says. ...
- The stateside system of elementary and secondary schools for military family members could be closed, saving \$788 million over 10 years, the study says.

"This provision would phase out these domestic schools over time and shift these military children into the local public school systems," the study group says. <Complete article at <http://aimpoints.hq.af.mil/display.cfm?id=6714>>

GUARDSMEN RETURN TO A DISASTER AREA

Some Are Shaken, Others Stoic Over Losses at Home

By Robert E. Pierre and Josh White - Washington Post Staff Writers - Saturday, September 10, 2005; A17

ALEXANDRIA, La., Sept. 9 -- For the past year, the 256th Brigade of the Louisiana National Guard had lobbed artillery shells at suspected insurgent hideouts in Iraq. It had patrolled the country's dusty highways, losing soldiers to roadside bombs. All the while, its members had dreamed of returning home.

On Friday, some of them did, to be greeted by the governor, tearful and smiling relatives -- and Katrina's devastation.

"We had all kinds of plans to come home and do all kinds of things," said Spec. Kaywon Jones, 24, whose family in New Orleans is either scattered in shelters or missing. "All of your motivation just died because you've got to go and work to help your family get back together."

<More at http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/09/AR2005090902037.html?nav=rss_world>

LIEUTENANT GENERAL BLUM: GUARD UNITS STRETCHED THIN DUE TO IRAQ WAR AND HURRICANE KATRINA

National Guard chief: Overseas missions left forces short of much-needed gear

Stephen J. Hedges, Chicago Tribune, Saturday, September 17, 2005

WASHINGTON -- The deployment of nearly 50,000 National Guard troops from 50 states as part of the Hurricane Katrina relief effort has exposed debilitating equipment shortages in a force already stretched thin by three years of deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, head of the National Guard, said in an interview that the needs of Guard units overseas have left troops at home without modern communications and night vision equipment, as well as the vehicles necessary for Guard troops to traverse neighborhoods flooded in the wake of Katrina.

<More at <http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/index.cfm?page=article&id=4884>>

MORE NEWS

SENATE APPROVES HIGHER SPENDING FOR VETERANS' BUDGET

By Andrew Taylor - ASSOCIATED PRESS - 3:09 p.m. September 22, 2005

WASHINGTON – The Senate on Thursday approved a big boost in the budget for veterans' medical care.

The measure, approved by a 98-0 vote, would increase spending by 21 percent, or about \$4 billion, to \$23.3 billion, for the budget year that begins Oct. 1. More veterans are seeking care and the cost per patient is on the rise, too.

<More at <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/military/20050922-1509-congress-veterans.html>>

TO THE COLOR - GATHERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
24-26 Sep	11:00	DC - Washington Monument	March and Meetings	United for Peace & Justice	End-the-war
29 Oct	09:30	Sacramento – Capitol North Steps	March	Various Veterans Groups	Veterans Benefits
11-Nov	11:00	NYC – Madison Sq Park /5 th Ave	Parade	NYC Event Planning	Celebrate Vets

TATTOO - CURRENT ISSUES

UNEMPLOYMENT SURGES AMONG IRAQ WAR VETERANS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette - Moustafa Ayad -
Sep 04, 2005

They fought for their country in Iraq. Now veterans are struggling to find a decent job in the United States

A year ago, former Sgt. Jaquaie McAtee was in charge of the most sought-after service in Iraq. McAtee, a mine expert, was responsible for locating and detonating the most effective weapon in the arsenal of the metastasizing insurgency -- improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

After three tours of duty, two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, McAtee returned from battle as one of the most competent men in his field, working against the roadside bombings that take so many soldiers' lives. He led 12-man teams into the fray of Fallujah at the height of the coalition's mission to rid the town of rebels, yet has come home to the stigma of being unable to hold a job as simple as herding crowds of raucous Steelers fans through the gates of Heinz Field.

"We left with nothing, and we came back to nothing," said McAtee, a 23-year-old veteran who lives in East Liberty. He has fought two wars in two countries and now struggles on the front lines of the job market, fighting unsuccessfully for work.

He's not alone. Soldiers in his age group have the highest unemployment rate in the country, which both surprises and frustrates him. "What else do I have to prove to my country? Do I have to get shot to get a job?"

One thousand active-duty, reserve and National Guard servicemen come home every day to the possibility of unemployment lines. Despite six or more federal vocational and hiring initiatives available to servicemen, many soldiers such as McAtee have scant knowledge about the \$222.5 million worth of services designed to help them.

<More at <http://vaiw.org/vet/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=1892&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0>>

RETURNING WAR WOUNDED STRAIN VETERANS' SERVICES

By AUDREY PARENTE - Staff Writer - September 11, 2005

Desert sand splattered when the mortar hit.

The blast slammed Army Sgt. Steve Pyle into a nearby truck -- in May 2003, during the Shock and Awe invasion of Iraq.

"When I came to, I couldn't get up. I was bleeding. I saw a couple of guys running toward me." They were enemy Iraqi soldiers. "We struggled and fought. They beat the hell out of me."

Since then Pyle, a 40-year-old father who lives in DeLand, has faced surgery, pain and confusion; wheelchairs, crutches and canes; doctors, medical complications and mental evaluations.

The Veterans Health System says he's one of nearly 85,900 veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and are back home using their medical benefits.

<More at <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/Headlines/03NewsHEAD01091105.htm>>

GIVE RETURNING IRAQ VETS BETTER HEALTH-CARE DEAL

Palm Beach Post Editorial Board - Palm Beach Post (Florida) - Aug 29, 2005

Soaring demand for health care at veterans' clinics and hospitals forced Congress to come up with \$1.5 billion last month to cover a deficit that the Bush administration had insisted would not exist.

Not only does it exist, it is spreading across the country. U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Miramar, held a town hall meeting last week in West Palm Beach and heard from dozens of vets who experienced problems at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Riviera Beach. The complaints echo those from other VA hospitals and come down to a disparity in numbers: The number of veterans seeking care is exceeding the government's ability to deliver it. Vets complained about long waits to see doctors, canceled appointments and delays in receiving treatment.

<More at <http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/?Page=Article&ID=4734>

VETERANS VOICE COMPLAINTS TO CONGRESSMAN ABOUT INADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE

By Diane C. Lade, Staff writer - September 14, 2005

Delray Beach -- Veterans meeting with officials from Palm Beach County's veterans health-care system Tuesday said they sometimes have to wait more than a year for routine eye or hearing exams. Sometimes, the veterans said, they arrive at the center only to discover their doctor has called in sick, and that it will take months to get a new appointment.

U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler, who convened the meeting, has heard many of the complaints before. Wexler thinks the waits may be growing longer and situation getting worse, as the World War II veterans age and need more medical care.

But he's uncertain whether much will change soon. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ran \$1.3 billion short in funding for medical programs this year, requiring congressional action to keep the system solvent. And now the agency will be competing with disaster-relief efforts. Already, more than \$62 billion in federal hurricane aid has been approved.

<More at http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-pveterans14sep14_0,7976315,print.story?coll=sfla-news-palm>

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT TORTURE AND ABUSE IN WAR ARE NOT ONLY ILLEGAL BUT STUPID

PATTERN OF ABUSE

A decorated Army officer reveals new allegations of detainee mistreatment in Iraq and Afghanistan. Did the military ignore his charges?

By ADAM ZAGORIN – Time Magazine - Friday, Sep. 23, 2005

The U.S. Army has launched a criminal investigation into new allegations of serious prisoner abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan made by a decorated former Captain in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, an Army spokesman has confirmed to TIME. The claims of the Captain, who has not been named, are in part corroborated by statements of two sergeants who served with him in the 82nd Airborne; the allegations form the basis of a report from Human Rights Watch obtained by TIME and due to be released in the next few days (Since this story first went online, the organization has decided to put out its report; [\(it can be found here\)](#)). Senate sources tell TIME that the Captain has also reported his charges to three senior Republican senators: Majority Leader Bill Frist, Armed Services Committee chairman John Warner and John McCain, a former torture victim in Vietnam. A Senate Republican staffer familiar with both the Captain and his allegations told TIME he appeared "extremely credible."

<More at <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1108972,00.html>>

TAPS – PASSINGS AND WAR STATISTICS

IF YOU DON'T READ ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS ISSUE, READ THIS ONE!

LOSING A FRIEND

By [Gina Cavallaro](#) - Times staff writer

RAMADI, Iraq — This is a column I hoped I would never have to write. It's about the death of a soldier who, like so many I've met on my four trips to Iraq to ride along with and write about soldiers, became a quick and loyal friend during the short time I knew him.

I've known people who have been killed here. And I've certainly seen death in my personal life. But I had not had the misfortune of having to witness a mortally wounded soldier try to hang on to life.

I grieve for this fallen soldier as I know his buddies do. And now I understand what it has been like for thousands of others who have seen tragedy here in Iraq.

His name was Spc. Francisco Martinez. He was 20 years old and a forward observer in 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery. But when I met him, he was temporarily attached to a scout platoon in Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, a common practice among maneuver units. <More at <http://www.armytimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-749128.php>>

Total number currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 121,166; Navy Reserve, 4,456; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 10,950; Marine Corps Reserve, 8,843; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 538. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel, who have been mobilized, to 145,953, including both units and individual augmentees. www.defenselink.mil/releases/2005/nr20050831-4606.html. In addition 40,000 National Guard members (plus 7,200 regulars) have been mobilized for Hurricane Katrina relief. <http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/story.asp?id=1748>

OIF/OEF – HACK DATE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2005

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

KILLED US	1,914
WOUNDED US	≥ 14,641
KILLED UK	96
KILLED OTHER COALITION	101
WOUNDED/INJURED COALITION	591
KILLED CONTRACTORS	269
KILLED IRAQI POLICE/MILITARY	≥ 33,010
KILLED IRAQI CIVILIANS	≥ 29,401
WOUNDED IRAQI MIL/CIV	≥ 134,586

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

KILLED US	234
WOUNDED/INJURED US	702
KILLED COALITION	120
WOUNDED/INJURED COALITION	360
KILLED AFGHANI POLICE/MILITARY	≥ 8,619
KILLED AFGHANI CIVILIANS	≥ 3,525

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VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC

P.O. Box 42202, Santa Barbara, CA 93140

www.vuft.org

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

LAST NAME: _____

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Street: _____

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Email: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Years of Service: From Mo/Day/Yr ___/___/____. To Mo/Day/Yr ___/___/____

Dues Enclosed: 1 Year (\$20) _____ Lifetime (\$100) _____

Additional Donation: _____

I would like to serve on the following committee(s) [optional]:

Finance

Fundraising

Organization Building

Other states

Growth/Outreach

Veterans & Other Veterans' Groups

Events

Planning and execution

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Communication

Website, Media Contact

Materials

Posters, Flyers, etc. production

Message

Writing, editing, newsletter

Local Organizing

Form community group

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ Date: ___/___/____

You will see that these are bipartisan submissions, as they should be, and that they are aging fast, as they should not. All are in committee somewhere. So much for Congress' "sense of urgency". Thanks to the Association of the United States Army, and the "Thomas" website for the information.

ACTIVE DUTY/GUARD/RESERVE [AD/G/R]

Bill	Sponsor	Co	Subject [Applicability] {Introduced}	Status - Committee
HR 97	Graves (R-MO)	44	Consumer credit relief [AD] {1/4/05}	Veterans' Affairs (VAC)
HR 197	Scott (D-GA)	6	In-state tuition active duty & dependents [AD] {1/4/05}	Armed Services (AS)
HR 269	Camp (R-MI)	20	One-time Montgomery GI Bill open registration for members in the 77-85 VEAP "hole" [AD] {1/6/05}	AS, VAC
HR 333	Lynch (D-MA)	50	Preserve status of students called to active duty [G/R] {1/25/05}	Education & the Workforce (E&W)
HR 621	Beauprez (R-CO)	2	Penalty-free withdrawal from retirement plans during AD [G/R] {2/8/05}	Ways & Means (W&M)
HR 771	Markey (D-MA)	46	Wounded/injured in combat draw pay during recovery [AD/G/R] {2/10/05}	W&M, AS
HR 772	Matheson (D-UT)	110	Educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill for certain members of Selected Reserve [R] {2/10/05}	VAC, AS
HR 838	Lantos (D-CA)	87	Protect financial security of activated reserve component members [G/R] {2/16/05}	W&M, Government Reform (GR)
HR 1667	Udall (D-NM)	12	Family & Medical leave amendment for leave for spouse, parent, child of member on activation notice [G/R] {4/14/05}	GR, E&W, House Administration (HA)
HR 1860	Rohrabacher (R-CA)	1	Exempts reserve component members from means test under 2005 bankruptcy law [G/R] {4/14/05}	Judiciary (J)
S 11	Levin (D MI)	24	Increase Army & MC strength; tax credits to employers of G/R; eliminate DIC offset to SBP; moves up effective date of SBP by 3 years to 10/1/05 healthcare options for G/R [AD/G/R] {1/24/05}	Finance (F)
S 32	Dayton (D-MN)	8	TRICARE eligibility for all dependents in all reserve components; premium assistance for private insurance; change in retirement age/service reqmt for non-regulars; 50% parity with AD GI Bill [G/R] {1/24/05}	AS
S 43	Hegel (R-NE)	6	Waives GI Bill enrollment fee; allows members to opt in to GI Bill without payment of fee or penalty [AD/G/R] {1/24/05}	AS
S 337	Graham (R-SC)	19	Revises age/service for non-regulars; expands healthcare for all non-regulars [G/R] {2/9/05}	AS
S 460	Kerry (D-MA)	0	Increase Army by 30,000; healthcare for all non-regulars ;no penalty on withdrawals from IRAs; tax credit for small businesses for lost wages {2/28/05}	F
S 938	Leahy (D-VT)	2	Housing allowance for non-regulars at same rate as regulars {4/28/05}	AS
S 1142	Landrieu (D-LA)	5	Tax credit for small business for lost wages; tax credit for self-employed members called to AD {5/26/05}	F

VETERANS' ISSUES

Bill	Sponsor	Co	Subject [Applicability] {Introduced}	Status - Committee
HR 616	Baca (D-CA)	32	Reduction of backlog of claims pending with VA {2/8/05}	VAC
S 13	Akaka (D-HI)	24	Mandatory funding of VA medicals care budget; concurrent receipt for all; open registration for GI Bill {1/24/05}	VAC

RETIREES' ISSUES

Bill	Sponsor	Co	Subject [Applicability] {Introduced}	Status - Committee
HR 303	Bilirakis (R-FL)	188	Concurrent receipt for non-regulars; eliminates phase-in period {1/25/05}	AS, VAC
HR 463	Evans (D-IL)	5	GI Bill benefits for licensing/certification programs {2/1/05}	AS
HR 558	Latham (R-IA)	112	Revises age/service requirements for non-regular retirement {2/2/05}	AS
HR 783	Saxton (R-NJ)	104	Revises age requirements for retirement for non-regulars {2/10/05}	AS
HR 1366	Bilirakis (R-FL)	24	Expands eligibility for Combat Related Special Compensation {3/17/05}	AS
HR 2076	Bilirakis (R-FL)	16	Expands eligibility for concurrent receipt; members rated by VA as "unemployable" to get 100% concurrent receipt {5/4/05}	AS
S 558	Reid (D-NV)	29	Authorizes concurrent receipt; eliminates phase-in period {3/8/05}	AS, VA
S 639	Corzine (D-NJ)	1	Reduce age of non-regular retirement to 55 {3/16/05}	AS

SURVIVOR ISSUES

Bill	Sponsor	Co	Subject [Applicability] {Introduced}	Status - Committee
HR 460	Edwards (D-TX)	3	Increases SGLI from \$250K to \$500K {2/1/05}	VAC
HR 808	Brown (R-SC)	167	Repeals VA/SBP offset {2/15/05}	AS
HR 968	Saxton (R-NJ)	106	Moves up paid-up date under SBP to 10/1/05 {2/17/05}	AS
S 185	Nelson (D-FL)	28	Repeals offset for SBP/DIC {2/26/05}	AS

HEALTHCARE ISSUES

Bill	Sponsor	Co	Subject [Applicability] {Introduced}	Status - Committee
HR 602	Hollen (D-MC)	215	Retirees & families in Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan; waives most Medicare Part B premiums; adds beneficiaries to TRICARE pharmacy program {2/2/05}	AS, W&M, GR, Energy & Commerce (E&C)
HR 515	Evans (D-IL)	117	Assured VA healthcare funding {2/2/05}	VAC
HR 994	Davis (R-VA)	239	Federal civilian & military retirees pay health insurance premiums pre-tax {3/1/05}	AS, W&M, GR
HR 3327	Spratt (D-SC)	0	Travel expense reimbursement for TRICARE for Life recipients {7/18/05}	AS
S 407	Johnson (D-SD)	8	Retirees & families in Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan waives most Medicare Part B premiums; adds beneficiaries to TRICARE pharmacy program {2/16/05}	AS
S 484	Warner (R-VA)	42	Fed civ. & military retirees - health insurance premiums pre-tax {3/1/05}	F, W&M

RELATED CIVILIAN ISSUES

Bill	Sponsor	Co	Subject [Applicability] {Introduced}	Status - Committee
HR 147	McKeon (R-CA)	284	Repeals Government Pension Offset {1/4/05}	W&M
HR 633	Hoyer (D-MD)	53	Increases Government contributions to Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan {2/8/05}	GR
S 619	Feinstein (D-CA)	23	Repeals Government Pension Offset {2/14/05}	F