



# Eighth District Veterans Report

*From U.S. Representative Bill Posey*



Dear Friend,

As we observe Memorial Day, let us take some time to reflect on the service and great personal sacrifices made by men and women who gave all to secure our freedom.

Former President Ronald Reagan reminded us on Memorial Day 1982 that "Their lives remind us that freedom is not bought cheaply."

Without their sacrifices we could never have secured our freedoms for these past 244 years. Honoring America's commitment to all those who gave their lives in defense of a grateful nation, as well as caring for the families of the fallen and the needs of veterans who served alongside them, is a commitment we must never allow to wane.

One of the greatest honors that my staff and I have is serving those who have served in our Armed Forces, helping the loved one of a fallen soldier, a veteran in need or a family member. 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 at 321-632-1776. My staff and I are here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Bill Posey



Rep. Posey delivers a legislative update and participates in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

*"Without the dedication of our military servicemembers it would not be possible to hold on to our freedoms throughout the years. We owe them all our deepest gratitude." - Rep. Bill Posey*

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**For direct assistance with veteran and military issues, please call (321) 632-1776 and dial 211 for Rob Medina, Director of Community Relations and Military Affairs, or dial 202 for Keith Van Buren, Veterans Caseworker and Wounded Warrior.**

# Rep. Posey is Working to Support Our Troops and Secure Our Nation

## Defense Bill Includes Pay Increase for Troops, Funds Local Military Priorities

Our military must have the best equipment and training possible. Rep. Posey supported the *National Defense Authorization Act*. The bill, which was signed into law in December, included the largest military pay raise in a decade (3.1%); repealed the so-called "widows tax" on survivor benefits; and contained stronger tools to fight counterintelligence threats.

It also benefits our local military installations by investing in our hypersonic capability, additional funding for Navy ships and submarine depot maintenance at Cape Canaveral and prohibits the use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam, which will help address some concerns of residents near Patrick Air Force Base.



Rep. Posey talks defense issues at the Brevard County Civilian Military Council.

## Bill Stops Federal Retirement Investments in Chinese Companies

A bill cosponsored by Rep. Posey puts an end to investing billions of dollars in federal and military retirement funds in Chinese companies. Posey joined with Reps. Meadows, Walz and several colleagues in introducing (H.R. 5018/H.R. 6614), ensuring that retirement funds are not invested in entities that may be working against America like Chinese business firms associated with the Chinese military.

## Posey Legislation Will Secure the Military High Ground

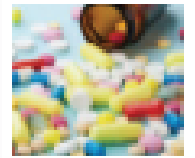
While Rep. Posey has been helping lead efforts to secure Florida as the home of the U.S. Space Force, he also understands how integral our commercial space launch capabilities are in fulfilling this mission. But the future of American space launch companies is threatened by increased subsidies from foreign governments.

To combat this unfair trade practice and ensure American space launch dominance, Rep. Posey introduced the *American Space Commerce Act*, extending for a decade existing space launch tax incentives for companies that launch from American soil.

There are unfair practices coming from China, Russia, India, and Europe, and Rep. Posey knows that a strong domestic space launch industry is in our national security interest. "This bill bolsters our domestic space launch industry, keeps America first in space and enhances our national security," he said.

## Rep. Posey's Bill Targets U.S. Dependence on Pharmaceuticals Produced in China

Earlier this year, Rep. Posey introduced bipartisan legislation to break America's dependence on pharmaceuticals produced overseas and protect Americans from contaminated foreign pharmaceuticals. Countries like China do not abide by our laws, putting at risk tens of millions of Americans who depend on life-saving medications.

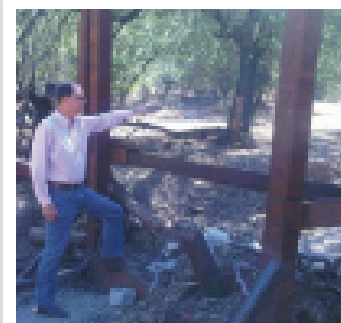


Eighty percent of the drugs that Americans depend upon come from overseas countries, and China (whose pharmaceuticals have been subject to numerous recalls) is the largest manufacturer. In 2008 a Chinese-based pharmaceutical company pumped counterfeit blood-clot medication into our domestic markets, resulting in the death of 81 Americans with another 785 severely injured. Federal officials, afraid of creating a shortage, allowed Chinese-made heparin to continue to enter the country without inspecting it because there were no other supply options.

Last year it was discovered that millions of Americans had been taking blood pressure medication tainted with a cancer-causing ingredient from China. The recent disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak only provide further evidence of the importance of reducing this threat to our health by ending our dependence.

## Working to Secure Our Nation's Borders

Rep. Posey believes it is the responsibility of the federal government to protect our nation, and that means securing our borders and maintaining operational control over them.



Rep. Posey is briefed on the situation at our southern border.

- ✓ Voted to support President Trump's ability to freeze travel from coronavirus-infected nations like China
- ✓ Introduced legislation to end the dangerous visa lottery system
- ✓ Voted to secure our borders with physical barriers, more personnel and new technology
- ✓ Voted to cut off funding for "sanctuary cities" - communities that refuse to cooperate with U.S. Immigration officials

# REP. POSEY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR VETERANS

## *Increased Economic Opportunities for Veterans:*

- ✓ **Veteran-Owned Businesses** - Supported provision to require Veterans fee waivers for the SBA 7(a) Express loan program to be permanently waived under the *CARES Act*.
- ✓ **Supported our veterans' organizations** in the *CARES Act* by making 501(c)19 nonprofits eligible for Paycheck Protection Program funding.
- ✓ **Improving the GI Bill** - Cosponsored the *Harry W. Colmer Veterans Educational Assistance Act*, removing time restrictions enabling future recipients to use GI bill benefits for their entire lives. (*Public Law 115-48*)
- ✓ **Increasing Veteran Employment Opportunities** - Supported H.R. 978 giving preference to government contractors who employ veterans fulltime and disqualifying contractors who misrepresent their veteran status.
- ✓ **Veterans Employment** - Selected to participate in the Wounded Warrior employee program to hire a post-9/11 wounded warrior.
- ✓ **Transitioning from Military Jobs to Civilian Jobs** - Voted to approve 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 Health and Medical Needs of Veterans:*

- ✓ **Blue Water Navy Veterans** - Cosponsored PL 116-23 extending benefits to Vietnam War Navy Veterans exposed to Agent Orange.
- ✓ **Expanded Access to Care** - Worked to pass the *VA MISSION Act* giving veterans greater access to care and more choices. (*Public Law 115-182*)
- ✓ **Meeting the Needs of Surviving Spouses** - Cosponsored H.R. 846 to end the practice of reducing Survivor Benefit Program benefits by the amount received in Dependence and Indemnity Compensation.
- ✓ **Combating Veterans Suicide** - Supported H.R. 4173 to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.
- ✓ **Fighting Opioid Addiction** - Supported H.R. 3832, strengthening care coordination to tackle veteran opioid addiction.
- ✓ **Service Dogs** - Cosponsored the *PAWS Act* to provide service dogs to select veterans with PTSD.

- ✓ **Help for Children of Homeless Veterans** - Cosponsored H.R. 95 to ensure dependent children of homeless veterans receive needed assistance.
- ✓ **Working to secure military veterans eligibility and access** to military pharmacy at lower rates.
- ✓ **Secured South Patrick Shores designation** as a Formerly Used Defense Site to help remediate chemical PFAS contamination.



Rep. Posey talks legislative issues with local veterans during an Honor Flight.

## *Improving the VA Experience and Protecting Veterans' Rights:*

- ✓ **Modernizing the Veterans Appeals Process** - Helped pass the *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act*, which modernizes the Veterans appeals process to allow for faster appeals decisions for veterans. (*PL 115-55*)
- ✓ **VA Accountability** - Worked to pass the *VA Accountability First Act*, giving the VA Secretary increased powers 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. (*PL 114-31*)
- ✓ **Protecting Veterans from Fraud** - Cosponsored the *Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act* (H.R. 450) making it a crime to defraud a veteran of their VA benefits.
- ✓ **Protecting 2nd Amendment Rights** - Supported H.R. 1181, the *Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act*, to ensure that no veteran who uses a fiduciary will lose their Second Amendment rights without due process.
- ✓ **Justice for Disabled Veterans** - Cosponsored and voted for H.R. 886 to extend Veteran Treatment Courts, ensuring the fair treatment of disabled veterans in court proceedings.

Read more about my record and other important issues at [www.posey.house.gov](http://www.posey.house.gov)

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## VA Establishing Out-Patient Clinic in Palm Bay

Bringing VA care closer to residents of Palm Bay has been a priority of mine for many years. I am pleased that the VA is establishing a veterans out-patient clinic in Palm Bay. The new clinic will be open in phases starting with providing primary care to veterans already being serviced by the Viera Clinic.

"After working for several years towards this important goal, I'm pleased that Palm Bay area veterans will now soon be able to get the VA medical services they need closer to home in Palm Bay," said Rep. Posey. "With almost 35,000 veterans enrolled at the Viera Clinic, this new primary care VA facility will help the VA keep up with the growing demand for services, ensuring we keep our commitment to our veterans."

## Fallen Soldier Honored with Congressional Gold Medal Presentation in Titusville

Rep. Posey recently presented the Congressional Gold Medal Award (replica) posthumously to PVT Irvin O. Simmons (KIA), a fallen member of the U.S. Army's 65th Infantry Regiment (also known as the Borinqueneers) who died in the final hours of the Korean War. PVT Irvin Simmons' brother, Bobby Simmons, who is also a veteran of the Korean War, received the award on his behalf. The ceremony took place at the Disabled American Veterans Post #109 in Titusville.

Rep. Posey wrote the law to formally recognize the brave American soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment by presenting them with the highest civilian award that Congress can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal. Posey said that the Borinqueneers participated in some of the fiercest battles of Korean War and "awarding such a high honor is an appropriate way to show our gratitude to these heroes for their bravery, their service and their sacrifices."



Rep. Posey discusses veterans issues and thanks the Simmons Family for their service and sacrifices for our nation.

## CARES ACT Includes Posey's Provision to Protect NASA & Defense Contract Workers and Their Mission

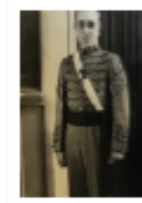
Legislation passed to provide economic relief to American families, workers and businesses to help aid our nation through the coronavirus pandemic included Rep. Posey's provision to protect NASA and Defense contract employees and ensure our nation's space and defense workforce and programs remain intact.

Posey said contract workers at NASA and at our military bases face serious hardship when they are restricted from reporting to work at the Space Center or their respective program locations - for many there's no telework option. "As we battle the coronavirus we don't want to risk losing our highly skilled workforce which ultimately could jeopardize our national security and critical space program investments. My provision keeps these workforces intact so that as we re-open they can immediately report to work," Rep. Posey said.



Rep. Posey talks space issues with KSC workers visiting Washington, DC.

## WWII Veteran's Family Receives Service Medals



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 at left) courageously served our nation in Germany where he bravely led 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.

Our office was successful in obtaining records from the National Archives securing Lt. Warner's Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart for his daughter. 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.

*"Honoring America's commitment to our veterans and supporting our troops is a top priority."*

*— Rep. Bill Posey*

## NEED HELP WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY?

If you experience a problem dealing with a federal agency such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Security, Medicare, the IRS, or any agency, Rep. Posey and his staff (pictured below) stand ready to assist you.

You may need our assistance with veterans benefits or obtaining service records. Additionally, we are able to help you obtain U.S. flags flown over the Capitol building, provide passes/tours of the Capitol and other information for Washington, D.C. visits, assist eligible grant seekers in finding information on federal grants, making nominations to military academies, and with college students looking for internship opportunities in our office. If you need assistance, please contact our local office at 321-632-1776. We're here to serve you.



Rep. Posey's District Office Staff (L-R): Patricia Febro, David Jackson, Cheryl Moore, Rob Medina, Chelsea Greene and Patrick Gavin. (Not pictured Keith Van Buren)

*"Thank you for getting involved with and solving my problem about Combat Related Special Compensation. What the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and the Department of the Army Human Resources Command had told me would take one year to resolve was fixed in about one month after your staff got involved."*

*— Cocoa Beach Constituent*

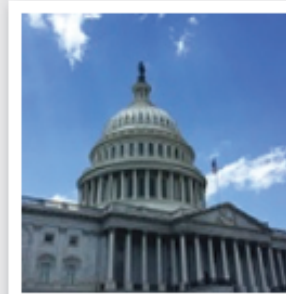
*"Thank you very much. What you have accomplished in a few short weeks I have been trying to do for YEARS on my own without success. You're the best."*

*— Vero Beach Constituent*

## Holding Washington Accountable

### Rep. Posey's Drain the Swamp Agenda

Rep. Posey has introduced several pieces of legislation as part of his Drain the Swamp initiative to make Washington more accountable and transparent:



- ✓ **Extending the Lobbying Moratorium:** H.R. 1021 extends the lobbying moratorium on Members of Congress when they leave office to five years, and up to two years for senior staff and other employees of the legislative branch.
- ✓ **More Accountability for Lobbyists Representing Foreign Governments:** H.R. 1022 prohibits former Members of Congress and senior staff who lobby on behalf of foreign governments from receiving any federal benefits resulting from their service in Congress.
- ✓ **More Transparency in Washington:** H.R. 1020 requires Members of Congress to disclose foreign business ties, including family member ties. H.R. 1489, the *Tax Transparency Act*, requires public disclosure of individual tax returns of the President, the Vice President, Members of Congress, and candidates for such offices going back seven years.
- ✓ **Read the Bill:** Passed what has become known as "The Posey Rule" into the rules of the House of Representatives to make legislation easier for the public to read and understand.

## Rep. Posey's Personal Accountability Checklist

- ✓ Voted to block Congressional pay increases.
- ✓ Has returned the pay raise every year (that was approved before Rep. Posey came to Congress in 2009).
- ✓ Requiring legislation to be available to the public for at least 72 hours before Congress votes on it. (**Adopted as House Rule Reform**)
- ✓ Cosponsored and voted for the STOCK Act to ensure that Members of Congress don't trade stock based on insider information (P.L. 112-105).
- ✓ Filed an amendment to stop sweetheart investment deals that enable Members of Congress to participate in Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) not available to the general public (H.R. 3606).
- ✓ Cut his own office budget by \$1 million since taking office.
- ✓ Voted to cut Congressional pensions (H.R. 3630).