

Eighth District Veterans Report



From U.S. Representative Bill Posey



Dear Friend,

As we celebrate our Independence Day let us take some time to reflect on the service and great personal sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform, and their families, over the years.

For 246 years adversaries and foreign powers have sought to extinguish the torch of liberty, yet, because of the courage and dedication of our servicemembers and their families, America has stood strong, as a shining light on the hill and a beacon of freedom for the world. We owe them, and their families, a great debt of gratitude. They have earned the utmost respect and deepest appreciation from a grateful nation.

While I have supported efforts to rebuild our military, ensuring today's servicemembers have the tools and the training they need to win on the battlefield, we must never forget to serve those who have come before.

One of the greatest honors that my staff and I have is assisting those who have served in our Armed Forces, helping the loved one of a fallen soldier, a veteran in need. 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 or 772-226-1701. My staff and I are here to serve you.

Sincerely,



Congressman Posey presents the Merchant Marine WWII Congressional Bronze Medal to Capt. Ed Lanni at a Memorial Day ceremony at the Merritt Island Veterans Memorial Center.

Follow Congressman Posey on social media: Twitter: @CongBillPosey and on GETTR: @BillPosey

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★ Congressman Posey's Legislative Agenda for Veterans ★

Increasing Economic Opportunities for Veterans:

- ✓ **Improving the GI Bill** – Cosponsored the *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act*, which removed time restrictions to enable future eligible recipients to use their GI bill benefits for their entire lives. (*Public Law 115-48*)
- ✓ **Jobs for Veterans** – Selected by U.S. House of Representatives to participate in the Wounded Warrior employee program to hire a post-9/11 wounded warrior.
- ✓ **Transitioning from Military Jobs to Civilian Jobs** – Supported H.R. 2494 to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration to ease transition to civilian jobs.
- ✓ **Expanding Secondary Educational Opportunities** – Supported H.R. 6376 and H.R. 6604 allowing part-time students to access VA Work Study programs and making it easier to transfer earned course credits between different schools.



Congressman Posey talks veterans issues at a recent Honor Flight in Brevard County.

Meeting Critical Medical Needs of Veterans:

- ✓ **Combating Veterans Suicide** – Supported legislation (H.R. 4173) to require the VA to study the outcomes and effectiveness of the Veterans Crisis Line.
- ✓ **Fighting Opioid Addiction** – Supported legislation (H.R. 3832) requiring medical providers at the VA who prescribe controlled substances to coordinate with state programs that monitor prescription drug use.
- ✓ **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)
- ✓ **Increasing Access to Service Animals** – Cosponsored the *Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act and Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act or PAWS Act*.
- ✓ **Tracking Health Care Complaints** – Cosponsored and Supported H.R. 5754 - *Patient Advocate Tracker Act* to create an electronic system for veterans to submit complaints regarding healthcare services they receive.

Improving the VA Experience and Protecting Veterans' Rights:

- ✓ **Modernizing the Veterans Appeals Process** – Supported the *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act*, which updates 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*, giving the VA Secretary more 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*)
- ✓ **Protecting 2nd Amendment Rights** – Supported H.R. 1181, the *Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act* to ensure that no veteran who utilizes a fiduciary will lose their 2nd Amendment rights without due process.
- ✓ **Improving VA Transparency** – Supported S. 2687, the *Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act*, to allow for more thorough investigations and reviews of allegations into VA employee misconduct.
- ✓ **Making The VA More Responsive to Veterans** – Supported H.R. 7153 to require the VA create a five-year plan for modernizing information technology systems to provide more timely and accurate benefits to veterans and their families.

Read more about my record at www.posey.house.gov

Supporting Our Troops and Securing Our Nation is a Top Priority



Congressman Posey receives an update from the Army Corps of Engineers on the status of South Patrick Shores designation as a Formerly Utilized Defense Site.

Fighting for Relief for Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances

Congressman Posey has worked to extend healthcare and other veterans benefits to servicemembers who suffered exposures to harmful or toxic substances like Agent Orange and toxic releases from burn pits. In this Congress, Posey has cosponsored:

- ✓ The **K2 Veterans Care Act** establishing a presumption of service connection for certain diseases related to active duty at K2 Air Base in Uzbekistan.
- ✓ The **Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act** allowing veterans exposed to toxic substances in military to enroll in the VA healthcare system, create a process for the VA to establish a presumption of service connection for benefits, and advance scientific research into toxic exposure.

Protecting Military Communities from Forever Chemicals Like PFAS

We owe our military members, their families, and the communities that host them protection and remediation of the effects of these harmful forever chemicals.

- ✓ Original cosponsor of the **PFAS Action Act** (H.R. 2467) directing the EPA to designate PFAS a hazardous substance.
- ✓ Passed amendment targeting PFAS chemicals in drinking water and firefighting foam on military bases.
- ✓ Original cosponsor of the **PFAS Free Military Purchasing Act** (H.R. 4975).

"Because of the courage and dedication of our servicemembers and their families, America has stood strong." - Congressman Posey

Fighting to Secure America and Confronting China

★ Protecting American Patients ★

- ✓ **Ending Tainted Chinese Pharmaceuticals** - Introduced the bipartisan **Safe Medicine Act** to end our reliance on China for lifesaving drugs and protect American patients from potentially contaminated pharmaceuticals.
- ✓ **Reducing Blood Thinner Shortages** - Passed an initiative incentivizing the production of U.S.-based bovine heparin, reducing our dependence on potentially contaminated supply from China and addressing worldwide shortages.

★ Countering a Growing China ★

- ✓ **Keeping U.S. First in Space** - Introduced the **American Space Commerce Act** which incentivizes companies to use U.S. launch services, countering countries that heavily subsidize their space programs like China and Russia.
- ✓ **Curbing China's Influence in Our Space Program** - Co-led effort creating an interagency task force to investigate Chinese interference within NASA.
- ✓ **Putting American Students First** - Passed initiatives to ensure taxpayer-funded, post-graduate STEM research grants are awarded only to American students and institutions.
- ✓ **Bringing Jobs Back Home** - Introduced the **RAM Act** to provide tax credits to U.S. companies that bring manufacturing jobs back on our shores.
- ✓ **Preventing Cyberattack** - Passed initiatives to strengthen our cybersecurity workforce and ensuring the Biden Administration secures our power grid from foreign adversarial governments, like China, with known histories of cyberattack.



Congressman Posey talks space issues at Kennedy Space Center

★ Holding China Accountable ★

- ✓ **Getting Answers to COVID-19 Pandemic** - Introduced the **Prepare Act** to get to the bottom of the origins of the pandemic and holding China accountable.
- ✓ **Promoting Transparency** - Passed an initiative to make sure China plays by the rules and is transparent in international standards-setting bodies.
- ✓ **Defunding Chinese Research** - Passed an initiative to ban American research dollars from the National Science Foundation from benefiting state-owned enterprises like the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China.

Paid for by official funds authorized by the House of Representatives.



At Hobbs Pharmacy on Merritt Island Congressman Posey discusses his legislative efforts to ensure safe and affordable prescription drugs.

Support for Military Sexual Assault Victims

Legislation to help victims of military sexual trauma recently passed the House. Congressman Posey supported H.R. 7335, H.R. 6064 and H.R. 6961 to improve communications, reduce bureaucracy, streamline the claims process, and provide increased training for VA benefits officials in assisting victims with military sexual assault trauma.

Blocking Funding to China's Research Programs

Congressman Posey co-introduced the *Stop Funding Our Adversaries Act* pushing back against the corrupt Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and promoting U.S. research initiatives by prohibiting any federal agency from using American tax dollars to conduct or support research with the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The legislation protects the interests of the United States and makes sure CCP entities like the Wuhan Institute of Virology – which should be investigated as the likely source of the COVID-19 pandemic – never see a cent of American funding again.

Posey Fights DC Swamp to Successfully Restore Honor Flight Police Escort

The National Park Service has announced that it will resume U.S. Park Police escorts for Honor Flight veterans to their memorials in Washington, DC. Last year the National Park Service cancelled U.S. Park Police escorts for Honor Flight veterans citing a further review of their policies. In January Congressman Posey co-led an initiative to force the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to reinstate this service. The Honor Flight Network reimburses the Park Police for escorts. Posey has attended every Space Coast Honor Flight and said we owe so much to these brave men and women who sacrificed to keep us free.



Congressman Posey discusses defense issues with veterans at a recent Honor Flight.

★ Need Help with the VA or a Federal Government Agency? ★

If you experience a problem dealing with the VA, Rep. Posey and his staff stand ready to assist you. Our office can also help in obtaining U.S. flags flown over the Capitol building, providing passes/tours of the Capitol and other information for Washington, D.C. visits, assisting eligible grant seekers in finding information on federal grants, making nominations to military academies, and with college students looking for internship opportunities in our Florida and Washington offices. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact our local office at 321-632-1776. We're here to serve you.



"I received my decision letter today. I was rated 100% and qualified for SMC s-1. I am so grateful and thankful for your help. I tried every possible way to get my claim expedited and you managed to get it done in a few days. Great work!"

- Palm Bay Constituent

"I want to thank you for your prompt response to my issue with the Veteran Affairs Department. I am fortunate to be in your district."

- Vero Beach Constituent