

Eighth District Veterans Report



From U.S. Representative Bill Posey



Dear Friend,

We owe our brave men and women in uniform and their families, and those who paid the ultimate price, a great debt of gratitude for their service in defense of our freedom and nation.

As we celebrate our Independence Day, let us take some time to reflect on their sacrifices and renew our commitment to caring for the families of the fallen and the needs of veterans who served alongside them.

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 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.

There are many important things we do each day that do not make news headlines. I'm pleased to share with you some highlights of our efforts to support our nation's military servicemembers, their families, and our veterans.

My staff and I are here to serve you.

Sincerely,



Congressman Posey meets with Honor Flight Veterans on the National Mall and updates them on veterans' issues. Pictured from left: Katie Posey, veteran Raymond Norman and his grandson Andrew Norman, Congressman Posey.



*"Their lives remind us that freedom is not bought cheaply."
- President Ronald Reagan*

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Congressman Posey's Legislative Agenda for Veterans



Congressman Posey discusses emergency response issues with Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station first responders.

Expanding Veteran Healthcare Options

Congressman Posey is working to expand healthcare options for disabled veterans. Posey is a cosponsor of the *Veterans' True Choice Act* which gives veterans meeting certain criteria the ability to use TRICARE Select and TRICARE for Life. The legislation allows veterans to use community care providers if a local VA facility does not offer the necessary services. Posey said the bill provides more treatment options and flexibility for veterans seeking care.

A Note on the Debt Limit

First, my position always has been and remains the same: I believe that there shall be NO changes to Medicare or Social Security for those in or near retirement. Like Veterans benefits, these are earned benefits and the federal government is obligated to pay them.

In 2010, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, said the national debt was "the greatest threat to national security." At the time our national debt was \$13 trillion. Today it is more than double that, and according to the New York Times, the new debt limit deal keeps us on a path toward \$50 trillion in debt by 2033, which is why I opposed that deal.

Growth of the national debt is driving inflation and impacts purchasing power of your dollar. Consider that a monthly Social Security benefit of \$1,666 today has the same purchasing power of a \$1,224 monthly benefit from 2010, a loss of \$441 or a 26% decrease in value. We must stop kicking this can down the road and deal with this problem.

Meeting Critical Medical Needs of Veterans:

- ✓ **Combating Veterans Suicide** - Supported H.R. 4173 requiring the VA to conduct a study on the outcomes and efficacy of the Veterans Crisis Line.
- ✓ **Fighting Opioid Addiction** - Supported 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.
- ✓ **Tracking VA 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*, to modernize the appeals process at the Department of Veterans Affairs for faster appeals decisions for veterans.
- ✓ **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 law enabling veterans to obtain identification cards from the VA.
- ✓ **Protecting 2nd Amendment Rights** - Ensuring no veteran who utilizes a fiduciary triggers a red flag to lose their Constitutional rights without due process.
- ✓ **Improving VA Transparency** - Supported the *Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act* to more thoroughly investigate and review allegations into VA employee misconduct.
- ✓ **Upgrading VA Technology** - Requiring the VA to modernize benefits systems.

Economic Opportunities:

- ✓ **Improving the GI Bill** - Removing time restrictions for eligible recipients to use GI bill benefits.
- ✓ **Veterans Employment** - Selected by U.S. House of Representatives to hire a post-9/11 wounded warrior.
- ✓ **Transitioning from Military Jobs to Civilian Jobs** - Supported H.R. 2494 establishing the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.
- ✓ **Expanding Secondary Educational Opportunities** -- Supported legislation allowing for easier transfer of earned course credits and for part-time students to access VA Work Study programs.

Border Security is National Security:

- ✓ Working to restore Trump border security first initiatives.
- ✓ Strongly opposes Biden policies of abandoning Trump's successful border security policies.
- ✓ Introduced legislation enabling Americans to contribute to border wall/fence.
- ✓ Ending the Visa Lottery Program which gives out 50,000 lottery entry visas a year regardless of skills or affiliations.
- ✓ Deporting criminal aliens (H.R. 2003)
- ✓ Earned top grade from NumbersUSA for voting to secure our borders.

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

Supporting Our Troops and Securing Our Nation is a Top Priority

Congressman Posey is joined by U.S. Space Force General Chance Saltzman, Chief of Space Operations, to receive a briefing by Patrick Space Force Base Major General Stephen Purdy on Space Force's Range of the Future plan.



Posey Co-Leads Successful Effort to Bring Space Force's STARGOM to Brevard County

Congressman Posey co-led the Florida Delegation effort with Senators Rubio and Scott to urge the U.S. Air Force to select Brevard County as STARGOM's permanent home. The U.S. Air Force just announced it has selected Patrick Space Force Base and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station as the preferred host of the U.S. Space Force's Space Training and Readiness Command (STARGOM) and Delta 10 unit. Posey said Florida's booming Space Coast is the world's premier space port and the perfect location for Space Force's STARGOM headquarters and Delta 10 unit.

Manufacturing is Key to National Security

Congressman Posey recently received the House Republican Leader Award from the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) for his legislative efforts in Congress to protect and grow American manufacturing. CPA is primarily a group of American manufacturers who make American products.



Protecting Veterans and Military Communities from Toxic Substances:

- ✓ Cosponsored & supported the *PFAS Action Act*
- ✓ Targeting PFAS in drinking water and firefighting foam on military bases
- ✓ Original cosponsor the *PFAS Free Military Purchasing Act*
- ✓ Original cosponsor of *The K2 Veterans Care Act*
- ✓ Cosponsored the *Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act*
- ✓ Supported S.3373 addressing burn pit exposure

Posey's Bipartisan Legislation Holds Chinese Solar Firms Accountable for Violating U.S. Trade Laws

Congressman Posey's bipartisan legislation to support American solar manufacturers and workers and to hold the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) accountable for breaking our trade laws passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support only to be vetoed by the President.

Posey's bill would have rescinded a recent Biden Administration rule, which the Commerce Department's preliminary investigation found allowed CCP-owned and other foreign solar manufacturers to circumvent U.S. trade laws by delivering their products to the U.S. through third-party countries, all to the detriment of American companies and workers, providing billions in direct relief to Chinese solar companies.

Congressman Posey is a leader in Congress protecting America from the far-reaching influence of China:

- ✓ **Ending Tainted Chinese Pharmaceuticals:** Introduced bipartisan Safe Medicine Act to end our reliance on China for lifesaving drugs and protect American patients from contaminated or ineffective pharmaceuticals.
- ✓ **Getting Answers to COVID-19 Pandemic:** Introduced the Prepare Act to expose the origins of the pandemic and hold China accountable.
- ✓ **Promoting CCP Transparency:** Passed an Amendment to make sure China plays by the rules and is transparent in international standards-setting bodies.
- ✓ **Defunding Chinese Research:** Introduced legislation to ban American research dollars from the National Science Foundation from benefiting China's state-owned enterprises like the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China.
- ✓ **Putting American Students First:** Passed amendment to ensure public post-graduate STEM research grants are awarded only to American students and institutions.
- ✓ **Bringing Jobs Back Home:** Introduced legislation to provide tax credits to U.S. companies that bring manufacturing jobs back on our shores.
- ✓ **Resisting Chinese Technology:** Blocking Chinese technology from being integrated into our energy and telecommunications grids.

Posey Has Strong Record Fighting for Local Space and Military Infrastructure

Congressman Posey has made building up and modernizing our local military infrastructure a top priority in Congress:

- ✓ Patrick Space Force Base Guardian Angel Facility
- ✓ Fully Funding the NASA Artemis Program
- ✓ Funding Exploration Ground Systems
- ✓ Range Communications Facility at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station
- ✓ Air Force Technical Applications Center
- ✓ Indian River Bridge
- ✓ Patrick Space Force Base Main Gate and Hangar Facility

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

★ Posey Works to Restore Servicemembers Discharged Over Vax Mandate ★

Last year Congressman Posey fought to rescind the military's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for military servicemembers. In December Congress officially passed legislation which was signed into law to remove the mandate. This year Posey has cosponsored legislation (H.R.291 - *Vaccine Discharge Parity Act*) to ensure military servicemembers who were granted a general discharge under honorable conditions for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine are eligible for VA educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty and Post-9/11 GI Bill programs as well as certain loan fee rates through March 1, 2031, under the VA's home loan program.

Posey Votes to End Federal Government COVID Telework Policies Responsible for Backlogs

Congressman Posey supported House-passed legislation (H.R. 139) to end telework policies which federal agencies put in place during the pandemic. According to the Office of Personnel Management, about 47 percent of the federal workforce is still working from home. "Getting stuck in lengthy automated phone menus while making little progress to resolve your claim has become the norm – and that must end. Terminating the pandemic-era telework policies will help tackle backlogs and better serve taxpayers," said Posey.

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



Congressman Posey updates Honor Flight veterans on legislative issues at the memorial in Washington, D.C in March.

Posey Fights to Eliminate Compensation Barriers for Disabled Veterans

Many disabled veterans have expressed frustration with restrictions on receiving both retired pay and disability compensation concurrently without penalty. Congressman Posey is co-leading several efforts in the House to remove these barriers for disabled veterans by cosponsoring H.R. 1282, the *Major Richard Star Act*, and H.R. 333, the *Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act*. Both bills address this disparity.

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

If you experience a problem dealing with a federal agency such as the VA, Social Security, Medicare, the IRS, or any other, 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.



"Once again, I must let you know about your amazing and talented staff! I had been working with Keith on my appeal with the VA. Keith accomplished in weeks what I was not able to in years! Absolutely life changing! I became emotional yesterday when I had the great pleasure of talking to Patricia... when I realized the sole purpose for Keith and Patricia coming to work is to help me and others like me."

- Vero Beach Constituent

"I would like to express, my sincere gratitude for your recent actions on my behalf. I've already received my entire service record, a copy of my first DD-214, as well as the DD-215. Furthermore, I received a call informing me these were coming, and they will be sending all medals and awards."

- Indian Harbor Beach Constituent