



## CONGRESSMAN ADAM H. PUTNAM

### VETERANS LEGISLATION in the 111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

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**Congressman Putnam is pleased to co-sponsor the following legislation to honor and support our nation's military veterans and their families.**

#### **Home Front to Heroes Postal Benefits Act (H.R. 707)**

This bill will provide monthly postage vouchers to members of the Armed Forces who are serving in overseas operations. These vouchers can be used by service members to connect with loved ones at home or they can be transferred to the home front so others can send care packages or letters back to the service member. It is my hope that this bill will ease the financial burden on families wishing to send their support and encouragement to loved ones serving overseas. The importance of this support cannot be understated.

#### **Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act (H.R. 775)**

Under current law, the surviving spouse of a retiree is not entitled to receive the combined total of full Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnification Compensation (DIC) benefits. Instead, the SBP benefit is offset on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the amount of DIC received, even if the plan is paid in full. Many service members were not aware of this offset when they decided to purchase the SBP. This bill would repeal this offset and restore the full benefit of the SBP to those who chose to pay into the program.

#### **Surviving Spouses' Benefit Improvement Act of 2009 (H.R. 2243)**

This legislation would base the rate of DIC on an amount equal to fifty five percent of the rate of compensation paid to a totally disabled veteran. The fifty-five percent ratio is what our government pays to dependent survivors of federal civilian employees who are killed while performing their duties. By comparison the current rate of basic DIC is only about forty-one percent of the compensation paid to a totally disabled veteran.

#### **American Heroes' Homeownership Assistance Act of 2009 (H.R. 309)**

Would allow current or former members of the Uniformed Services who perform duty in a combat zone between 2001 and 2010, or their surviving spouses, a one-time tax credit for 10% of the purchase price of a principal residence, up to \$7,500.

#### **Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act (H.R. 613)**

This legislation would require the United States to forgive any overpayment of retired or retainer pay arising from payment of such retired or retainer pay for any period after the date of the death of the recipient through the last day of the month in which such death occurs if such payment is electronically deposited in an accredited financial institution to a joint account bearing the name of the decedent and another individual who is the decedent's designated beneficiary.

#### **Establishing a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs (H.RES. 111)**

Establishes the House Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs. This Committee will have the authority to examine records related to those service members missing in action or possible prisoners of war.

Picture 2



Picture 1



*Congressman Putnam participated in the dedication of the new VA clinic in Lakeland*

**Lance Corporal Jeremy Burris Act (H.R. 430)**

Would amend the federal criminal code to modify the prohibition against destruction of veterans' memorials to include knowingly destroying the grave, headstone, or marker of any person in the Armed Forces and to extend such prohibition to memorials, graves, headstones, or markers on private as well as public property.

**Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009 (H.R. 23)**

Establishes the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund for payments by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of a monthly benefit of \$1,000 to each individual who, between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, was a documented member of the U.S. merchant marine serving as a crewmember of a vessel that was operated in U.S. waters by the War Shipping Administration.

**Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act of 2009 (H.R. 442)**

Provides a 90-day amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record any firearm acquired before October 31, 1968, by a veteran while a member of the Armed Forces stationed outside the continental United States.



The Department of Defense has established [www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil](http://www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil) as an easy guide for sending "care packages" or words of gratitude to those serving overseas.

These acts of kindness and remembrance mean a lot to our troops, and they appreciate knowing the American people back home are thinking about them.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam H. Putnam".