



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans

April 3, 2008

The Honorable Don Young
Member of Congress
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

On behalf of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), I am writing to thank you for signing our "Stand Up For Veterans Pledge" as a demonstration of your personal commitment to improving health care for America's veterans, especially disabled veterans.

As you know, there are significant obstacles facing many veterans in obtaining adequate treatment for their mental and physical wounds, including the brave men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. In order to address these problems, DAV has developed a veterans health care agenda that focuses on improvements and reforms in four major areas:

- Proper screening and treatment for psychological wounds, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD);
- Proper screening and treatment for traumatic brain injury (TBI);
- Expanded services and support for family caregivers of seriously wounded and disabled veterans; and
- Ensuring that veterans health care funding is sufficient, timely, and predictable

Last month during DAV's Mid-Winter Conference, hundreds of DAV members and supporters visited Capitol Hill to discuss the four areas mentioned above and to distribute the "Stand Up For Veterans Pledge" to their elected representatives. During the Conference, we also officially launched our national Stand Up for Veterans initiative (www.standup4vets.org) that seeks to educate the public and Congress on health care challenges facing veterans today. DAV will publicize your support for our initiative on this website and in other ways.

For over two hundred years, the men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation have stood up for us. Thank you for standing up for them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Violante".
JOSEPH A VIOLANTE
National Legislative Director



Congressional Pledge to Stand Up For Veterans

Tens of thousands of our military personnel are returning home from the battlefield with serious physical and mental wounds and disabilities. They have earned the right to comprehensive, high-quality, and timely medical care and support.

As an elected official, I will support legislation to:

- Properly screen and treat the psychological wounds of our veterans, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD);
- Properly screen and treat all veterans who may have suffered traumatic brain injury (TBI), including all who may have suffered a "mild" TBI – using the most effective techniques and treatments;
- Provide comprehensive support to family caregivers of severely wounded and disabled veterans, including access for family caregivers to mental health care services and financial support programs;
- Fix the federal budget process to make veterans health care funding sufficient, timely and predictable.

We must keep faith with the brave men and women who served and sacrificed for our country. I pledge to take all actions necessary to ensure that veterans health care remains the "best care anywhere."

Signature

Date

Print Name