

SENATOR CONRAD BURNS WORKING FOR MONTANA VETERANS

I take pride in serving on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Committee, where I strive to make sure that our veterans are receiving the healthcare and retirement benefits they need. Since I have been in office the VA has become an award winning healthcare provider. Just this past year I have fought for veterans...

Funding for the VA

- Last summer, I secured \$1.5 billion in emergency funding for VA healthcare
- I led the fight to oppose increased fees and co-pays for veterans healthcare in the 2007 Budget
- This summer, my committee passed a \$3 billion increase in funding for Veterans

Honoring our Veterans

- Fought to ensure that our veterans are guaranteed full military funeral honors
- Passed an amendment granting stipends to members of veterans organizations who perform funeral honor details
- Worked to establish a Veterans cemetery in Missoula
- Co-sponsored an amendment that will extend the eligibility for Purple Heart honors to all POWs who died in captivity since Pearl Harbor

Reserve Retirement

- Cosponsored an amendment that will reduce the retirement age from 60 to 55 for reservists.

Medical Benefits

- Maintained a zero co-payment for mail order prescriptions
- Halted any increase in prescription co-payments during Fiscal Year 2007
- Preserved veterans' and their families' right to use their earned TRICARE benefits, no matter what alternative healthcare is provided by employers
- Authorized incentive payments to physicians who care for TRICARE patients in medically underserved areas like rural Montana
- Cosponsored the Military Retiree Survivor Benefit Plan to allow survivors to receive full Survivors Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits
- Introduced a bill to increase travel reimbursement rate for veterans from 11 cents to 40.5 cents per mile
- Sponsored an amendment for blinded veterans rehabilitation

Homeless Vets

- Continue to support "Stand Downs" where homeless veterans can get food, clothing, medical services, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling and referrals
- Worked to fund much-needed Veterans transitional housing in Helena, housing for homeless veterans in Missoula, and Veteran's clinics in Lewistown & Cut Bank