



210 E. Broad St., Suite 202
Falls Church, VA 22046

Telephone: (703) 237-8980
Fax: (703) 237-8976

FIRST IN 2015: CONGRESSMAN WESTERMAN DECLARES SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN VETERANS

**As First Rep. of 2015 to Affirm the Veterans' Bill of Rights, National Vets' Group
Lauds Congressman Bruce Westerman for his Strong Support of Veterans**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Benjamin Peoples 703-237-8980

Falls Church, Virginia – The nationwide Circle of Friends for American Veterans (COFAV) recognized Congressman Bruce Westerman today for his affirmation of its Veterans' Bill of Rights.

Congressman Westerman readily affirmed the Veterans' Bill of Rights (VBOR) and plans to emphasize it in his work in the House of Representatives. He has affirmed through the VBOR that 1) Veterans are a top priority; 2) He supports reducing the wait time on disability claims from the current 202 day average to 125; 3) The VA should negotiate for its procurement services; and 4) The VA should collect all possible insurance claims owed to it.

The challenges facing our country's nearly 22 million veterans are many. There are almost 100,000 homeless veterans, nearly 700,000 cases of PTSD & TBI, and 22 veteran suicides each day. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association one half of all veterans returning from a war zone suffer from chronic pain.

The VA can gain literally billions of dollars in new revenue to provide services, without a dollar in new costs for taxpayers, by merely filling out the required paperwork on procurement and insurance claims. The services that can be expanded at zero cost include housing for 20,000 homeless veterans, and new dental procedures for over 300,000 veterans.

“Veterans go above and beyond in service to our nation, risking life and limb to protect us here at home. That is why I am proud to support the Veterans' Bill of Rights. Taking care of our veterans must be a priority of this and future Congresses. This proposed bill of rights does that by reducing wait times on disability claims, pushing the Veterans administration to negotiate for procurement services and pushing the V.A. to collect insurance claims owed to it. The Veterans' Bill of Rights ensures that we look after our veterans, just as they have looked after us.”

Congressman Bruce Westerman has shown in the two short months he has been in office that he is truly a champion for veterans. He is the first Congressperson to affirm the VBOR since the 114th Congress first convened, and his first co-sponsored legislation to pass the House of Representatives was the Hire More Heroes Act. Congressman Westerman has decisively shown all Americans that the Representative for Arkansas's 4th District will be the first to stand tall for veterans when duty calls.

Since 1993, The Circle of Friends for American Veterans has harnessed the power of the media to rally public support on behalf of American Veterans. COFAV has sponsored 196 programs and forums, with well over 100 Members of Congress speaking at its events. The Circle of Friends for American Veterans has supported local homeless veteran transitional facilities by organizing and conducting programs for public support in their local areas, as well as through earned media.