

Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, released the following statement as her colleagues in the House Veterans Affairs Committee look towards the Buffalo Veterans Court as a model for veterans care in the United States:

“Members of the military and their families have the hardest job in the world. Our veterans have served us proudly putting themselves in danger thousands of miles from their families in tour after tour. Honoring their sacrifice means we must recognize their specialized needs, like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the effects of Traumatic Brain Injury, that increasingly result from fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is imperative that we help our veterans readjust to civilian life get back on track if they’re in trouble,” said Slaughter. “The Buffalo Veterans Court is a shining example of giving veterans the treatment they deserve and I’m proud that my colleagues are looking to Buffalo for leadership on how to care for our servicemen and women.”

This morning several representatives from Buffalo came to Washington to testify to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Local experts included:

- The Honorable Robert T. Russell, Jr., Judge, Buffalo City Court, Buffalo, NY
- Patrick William Welch, Ph.D., Director, Erie County Veterans Service Agency, Buffalo, NY

- Jack O'Connor, Mentor Coordinator, Veterans Court Mentoring Program, Buffalo, NY
- Jennifer P. Stergion, Esq., Chair, Committee on Veterans and Service-Members Legal Issues, Buffalo, NY
- William F. Feeley, MSW, FACHE, Director, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Buffalo, NY