

July 2, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Speaks In Support of 21st Century GI Bill

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of 21st Century GI Bill

Applauds Nazareth College's New Veterans Scholarship

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today gave remarks in support of the recently enacted 21st Century GI bill at a press conference to announce a new veteran's scholarship at Nazareth College. The GI bill, which was signed into law on Monday, will restore full, four-year college scholarships at public institutions to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Nazareth College's new scholarship will supplement the benefits provided by the GI bill.

"Our brave men and women in uniform have sacrificed much during this war and deserve our gratitude and support when they return home," said Rep. Slaughter. "The new GI bill marks a major step forward in our effort to honor the men and women who courageously serve our nation. I applaud Nazareth College on their commitment to support our returning veterans as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives."

Rep. Slaughter was joined at today's press conference by Nazareth College President Daan Braveman, Major General John Baptiste (Ret.), New York State Senator Joseph Robach, New York State Senator James Alesi, New York State Assemblyman Joseph Errigo, and Tom

Cray from the Veterans
Outreach Center.

BACKGROUND

GI Bill for the 21st Century

More than 68,300 men and women from New York have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since September 2001. Unfortunately, their GI benefits were only paying about 70 percent of a public college education and 30 percent of a private college education.

The GI bill for the 21st Century fully restores full, four-year college scholarships at any in-state public institutions for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. This scholarship is on a par with the educational benefits available to World War II veterans.

The GI bill for the 21st Century will make Iraq and Afghanistan veterans an important part of America's economic recovery, just as the veterans of World War II helped grow and strengthen the American middle class.

The original GI bill of 1944 launched millions of families on a course to achieving the American dream – and set the American economy on the right course after a draining war. It returned \$7 to the economy for every \$1 spent.

The GI bill for the 21st Century, when fully implemented, will cost about \$5 billion a year – which is what we spend in two weeks on the war in Iraq.

The GI bill for the 21st Century was included in H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, which was approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate last month. On Monday, President Bush signed the legislation into law.

Nazareth
Veterans Scholarship

The scholarship is worth \$24,000 over four years at Nazareth College and would benefit any honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the U.S. Military who is admitted as a full-time undergraduate student. Paired with the increased benefits from the GI bill for the 21st Century, veterans could attend Nazareth College virtually tuition

free.

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