

## issues - veterans and military affairs

### Veterans

Servicemen and women are our country's greatest heroes. These Americans are the most selfless among us and the most willing to sacrifice. Louise believes we must ensure that these men and women receive the care and benefits that they have earned, especially as new veterans return home from missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Earlier this year, the Democratic Leadership - with Louise's strong support -- pushed for the passage of H.R. 2206, the FY 2007 Iraq Supplemental bill which was signed into law on May 25, 2007. This legislation provides \$2 billion to improve military health care facilities like Walter Reed and other hospitals as well as enhance services at Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Counseling Centers and Traumatic Brain Injury Care and Research facilities. Too many of our veterans are suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injuries and need better care to move on with their lives after experiencing the horrors of a war zone.

Following the passage of the FY 2007 Iraq Supplemental bill, Louise and House Democrats advocated for the largest funding increase for veterans in the 77-year history of the VA. This increase, totaling nearly \$12 billion, will provide veteran's health care and benefits programs with the resources to meet the needs of returning veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq and to make up for the Bush Administration's past shortchanging of veterans. Louise is proud that the House of Representatives passed this funding increase in H.R. 2642, the FY 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill on June 15, 2007.

In addition to increased health care funding, Louise strongly supported passage of the Veterans Outreach Improvement Act in May 2007. This bill allows the VA to partner with state and local governments to reach out to veterans and their families and ensure that they receive their veterans benefits.

Louise is proud that the 110th Democratic Congress has taken several important steps to ensure that our veterans get the best service possible.