



*Congressman*  
**JERRY MORAN**

*Representing the First District of Kansas  
United States House of Representatives*

Dear Friend,

On Tuesday, September 11th, the world as we knew it was changed forever. We all watched in horror as planes, hijacked by terrorists, crashed into the Pentagon and World Trade Center, killing thousands. In one way or another, this terrorist attack has affected everyone, including Kansans.

Our country is now engaged in war. President George Washington once wrote, "the willingness of future generations to serve in our military will be directly dependent upon how we have treated those who have served in the past."

Now more than ever, as men and women are sent into conflict, we need to make sure that we are honoring the promises made to previous service men and women. As Chairman of the U.S. House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, I know of the importance of this commitment and will support that effort.



Congressman Moran presents WWII service medals to L.D. Minor of Minneola at ceremonies in Dodge City.

I hope you will find the information in this newsletter useful. We will continue to work to protect veterans' health – because veterans have protected ours.

Very truly yours,

*Jerry Moran*

# Moran Selected to Chair Veterans Health Subcommittee

Prior to the start of the 107th Congress, Congressman Jerry Moran was selected by Congressman Chris Smith (NJ-04), Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, to chair the Health Subcommittee. This was Congressman Moran's first subcommittee chairmanship.

"The health and well being of Kansas veterans has been a priority during my time in Congress, and this subcommittee chairmanship allows me to better serve American veterans," Moran said.

The Subcommittee on Health has legislative and oversight jurisdiction for the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) health care programs. In this session of Congress, the Health Subcommittee examined ways to improve the VA's mental health, substance-use disorders and homelessness programs, specialized medical services, chiropractic services, and VA's coverage of prescription drugs. This year, the Veterans Affairs Committee and the full House of Representatives approved HR 2792, legislation to improve veterans' health care, HR 811, the Veterans Hospital Emergency Repair Act, and HR 2716, the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act.

"Congress takes seriously its choice of subcommittee chairmen. Jerry Moran has paid his dues and was a natural choice to head the Health Subcommittee," Chairman Chris Smith said.

Moran concluded, "I am honored to have this opportunity to serve our nation's most respected citizens - our veterans."



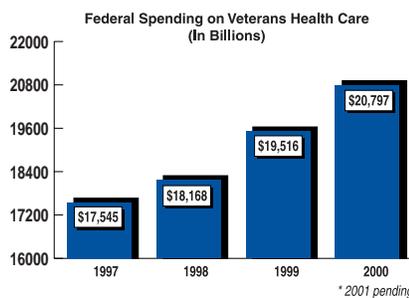
Congressman Moran chairs the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health. Here, Congressman Moran hears from veterans about VA mental health, homeless and drug treatment programs. Seated to his left is John Bradley, Subcommittee Counsel.

## Chairman Holds Kansas Hearing on VA Health Care

Congressman Moran invited the subcommittee to Kansas in the fall of 2001 to hear directly from Kansas veterans about the state of VA health care. The hearing was held at the Wichita VA Medical Center.

The message from veterans during the hearing was one of continued difficulties - bureaucratic obstacles and financial short falls. Veterans relayed stories of being put off for months when trying to make an appointment and having to drive hundreds of miles for the most basic of services. More veterans said they are seeking the VA's help to offset the rising cost of their prescription drugs.

However, there were also stories of progress and improvement. Funding for VA hospital and medical care has risen significantly over the last five years. In 1997, total VA funding for health care was \$17.5 billion dollars. This year funding will be nearly \$21 billion. As Congress continues to allocate



more resources to the VA, they need to know that these dollars are being spent wisely and that veterans' needs are being met.

Moran was pleased by the outcome of the hearing.

"American veterans have put their lives on the line to protect us, and we have an obligation to keep our pledge to provide them with affordable and dependable health care. I greatly appreciate all the Kansans who came to Wichita to share their stories with Congress. We will continue to work to improve veterans' health care services."



Congressman Moran presides over the Subcommittee on Health Field Hearing in Wichita.

## CBOC to Begin Operation in Salina

Earlier this year, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced it would establish a Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Salina. The CBOC will increase access to health care services to veterans who live in north central Kansas.

In April of 2000, Congressman Moran hosted a veterans forum in Salina, where veterans discussed the need for a CBOC in the area. At Moran's request, the Veterans Administration held a public meeting in Salina that July to gather public opinion on the establishment of a CBOC. After that meeting, Moran requested funding for the clinic.

Moran has also been instrumental in the establishment of other clinics. Since 1996, six community-based outpatient clinics have been established in Hays, Dodge City, Parsons, Fort Scott, Liberal and Wyandotte County. These clinics allow veterans to receive the care they need, closer to home.

The VA is working to have the Salina CBOC open by January 1, 2002.

# Moran Supports Full Military Retirement Pay for Veterans

Earlier this fall, Congressman Jerry Moran wrote to House Speaker Dennis Hastert, urging that career military retired veterans with service-connected disabilities be allowed to receive the full amount of both military retired pay and veterans disability compensation. Congressman Moran has supported concurrent receipt legislation each year since coming to Congress.

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TRANSPORTATION AND  
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The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House Of Representatives  
The Capitol, Room H232  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

Dear Speaker Hastert:

I am writing in strong support of authorizing career military retired veterans who have service-connected disabilities, to receive the full amount of both military retired pay and veterans disability compensation. I urge you to include authorization of concurrent receipt, without any conditions or requirements, in the FY2002 National Defense Authorization Act.

Under current law, 450,000 of our nation's veterans forgo part of their military retired pay if they receive disability compensation. These men and women risked their lives to serve their country, were disabled in the line of duty, and currently do not receive their full retirement benefits. Many are World War II veterans who spent their career in the military. We lose over one thousand WWII veterans each day. We should not delay acting on this legislation.

Each year since coming to Congress, I have supported concurrent receipt legislation. This year this legislation is H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2001. This bill would end the current practice of deducting disability benefits from the amount of retirement pay a veteran receives. I urge you to include this measure in this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

Now more than ever, as we send our sons and daughters into battle, we need to make sure that we are honoring the promises made to previous generations of veterans. Our veterans have fulfilled their commitment in the military. Now is our chance to honor their service to our nation.

Thank you for your attention on this important matter. I appreciate your time in reviewing this request.

Very truly yours,

*Jerry Moran*

# Moran Introduces Veterans Health Care Improvement

This fall, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2792, legislation to improve veterans' health care. The bill was introduced earlier in the year by Congressman Moran. H.R. 2792 works to improve veteran's health care services by:

- Allowing more veterans to access specialized medical programs to treat conditions such as serious mental illness, spinal cord injury, blindness, amputation and traumatic brain injuries.
- Modifying the VA's eligibility criteria so that low-income veterans can receive the care they need.
- Establishing a new chiropractic service program to be implemented over the next five years.
- Creating a national commission on VA nursing to enhance recruitment and retention of professional nurses in the VA.
- Allowing seriously disabled veterans to qualify to receive service dogs. For many veterans, this can mean the difference between living independently and requiring full-time care.



## Medals Available for Veterans

Congressman Moran presents World War II service medals and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal to Hattie Kornelson of McPherson. Mrs. Kornelson accepted the medals on behalf of her late husband, Harold. Since the government approved the awarding of the medal in 1999, Congressman Moran has provided over 400 of the Republic of Korea medals to veterans and the families of deceased veterans. Kansas veterans interested in finding out if they are eligible are encouraged to contact Congressman Moran.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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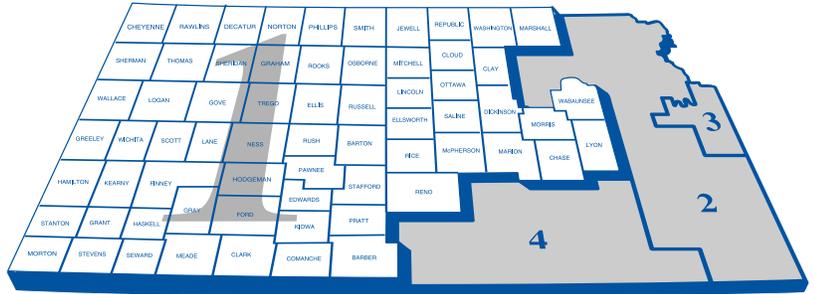
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## Congressman Jerry Moran



### Representing the 1st District of Kansas

*Jerry Moran*

M.C.  
Presorted Standard

## VETERANS NEWS FROM CONGRESSMAN MORAN

### Inside:

- Moran Chairs Veterans Subcommittee on Health
- Congress Approves Increases in VA Funding
- Community-Based Outpatient Clinic to Open in North Central Kansas



Congressman Moran meets with members of the Kansas American Legion to discuss veterans issues.