

# LOU BARLETTA

## CONGRESS 2010

### Honoring our Armed Services

Barletta Supports Those Who Serve

*"From the minutemen at Lexington and Concord in 1775 through the battles raging today in Afghanistan, men and women have worn the uniforms of this nation and stood up against tyranny, against oppression, and for liberty.*

*"This is a legacy our veterans can be proud of. Veterans served our great nation with dignity and pride.*

*"For some that service was in the jungles of Southeast Asia, the mountains of Tora Bora, the shifting sands of Iraq and Kuwait, the tranquil fields of modern Europe, the cold desolation of Korea, or the beaches of Normandy or Guadalcanal. Others served here at home, on American soil.*

*"No matter where they put their boots at night, our veterans are owed a debt of gratitude. We owe our veterans the best benefits we can provide."*

-Mayor Lou Barletta

Stand with  
**LOU**

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- **VA HOSPITAL**

I know the Veterans' Administration medical center in Wilkes-Barre Township plays a critical role in the health care of thousands more veterans across Northeastern Pennsylvania. The local VA hospital serves one of the largest populations of veterans in the nation. It is critical that the VA hospital not only remain open, but that it provides the best possible care with the most modern equipment.

If I am fortunate enough to represent you in Washington as your Congressman, I give you my word that I will fight to protect the VA Medical Center. I will prevent it from being closed. I will make sure that veterans are never shortchanged when it comes to medical care here in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

- **BEYOND BASIC HEALTH CARE**

We have to go beyond providing basic medical care. We need to expand the drug and alcohol counseling services we offer our veterans. So many have returned home from duty, only to be wracked by the horrors of drug and alcohol abuse. We cannot – we should not turn our backs on these men and women.

A few years ago I was shocked to learn that one of every four homeless people in this country is a veteran. Today, veterans make up about one-third of the adult homeless population in America. The VA estimates that on any given night in the United States, 107,000 veterans are homeless. Over the course of a year, more than twice that number of veterans will experience homelessness. This is a secret tragedy – and a national shame. We need to provide more resources to community-based, non-profit, veterans-helping-veterans groups and transitional housing programs.

- **PROTECTING FUTURE VETERANS**

We need to do more for our future veterans – the members of the current active duty military. We need to provide them with fair wages, adequate housing, a college education or job skills training when they complete their service, and the best equipment money can buy while they're in harm's way. From body armor to bullets, and from bachelor's degrees to BOQs, our servicemen and servicewomen deserve the best. If I'm elected to Congress, I promise that our active-duty military have the tools and training they need to succeed, both while they're in the service and for the rest of their lives.

- **PTSD/TBI RESEARCH AND TREATMENT**

We also have an obligation to increase funding to research two of the most harmful and potentially damaging injuries our servicemen and servicewomen can receive – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injuries. With so many members of our military involved in active fighting over the past decade, we're seeing more of them suffer wounds that extend beyond the physical. The injuries caused by PTSD and TBIs are not always physically apparent, but they are just as damaging and potentially destructive to the veteran and to their families and friends. We can no longer ignore Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injuries. The VA must work with the civilian medical community to study these areas and develop treatments for them.

- **GI Bill**

The G.I. Bill provides very real benefits to our nation's veterans. I will fight to protect the G.I. Bill – especially the transferability of its benefits to the dependents of veterans.

Paid for by Lou Barletta for Congress