



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 1, 2008

[www.house.gov/shuster](http://www.house.gov/shuster)

Contact: Jeff Urbanchuk, Press Secretary  
(202) 225-2431  
(202) 593-1040 cell  
(202) 225-2486 fax  
[jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov](mailto:jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov)

## **Shuster Secures Key Military Construction Projects for the 9<sup>th</sup> District**

### ***Appropriations Package Also Increases Funding for Veterans Healthcare, Quality of Life***

Washington, D.C.—**Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that he has successfully secured three important projects for the 9<sup>th</sup> district in the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill passed by the House today. In addition to construction projects the bill also increased funding for VA healthcare and quality of life.

The money secured by Shuster will fund projects to improve operations at the award-winning Letterkenny Army Depot in Franklin County and enhance the Army Heritage and Educational Center in Carlisle.

“One of the most important jobs I have in Congress is to make sure my constituents get a good return on the investment they have made to their government though their hard earned tax dollars,” Shuster said.

“Improving Letterkenny will bring more business to the depot and enhancing the Army Heritage Center will attract tourists to Cumberland County,” Shuster said. “With hard work and determination, these projects will increase economic activity and promote the region for more investment.”

- Shuster secured \$14.9 million for a project to consolidate three area Army Reserve facilities at the Letterkenny Army Depot. The project will provide a 300 member training facility with administrative areas, classrooms, an assembly hall, arms vault, kitchen, equipment storage areas, physical training rooms, and maintenance facilities.
- Shuster also secured \$7.5 million to upgrade Letterkenny’s munition igloos, many of which we first built in the 1940’s. Letterkenny continues to be a major receiving, storage, maintenance, and shipping site for both tactical missiles and conventional ammunition. The funding Shuster secured for this project will modify approximately 100 igloos with larger doors and concrete ramps to make ammunition transfer safer and more efficient.

- For the Army Heritage and Educational Center in Carlisle, Shuster secured \$13.4 million to fund the construction of a museum support facility to provide curation, conservation, and storage of historical artifacts and art in coordination with the Center of Military History. Once completed, the facility will provide a major educational and tourist facility in the Central Pennsylvania region.

In addition to these military construction projects, the legislation also made significant improvements to the Veterans Administration to improve health care and the quality of life for our nation's veterans.

“This legislation also upholds Congress’ promise to our nation’s veterans by increasing funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs to help existing and new veterans get the care and support they need and deserve from their government,” Shuster said.

“Right now, the Veterans Health Administration is estimating that they will treat more than 5.8 million patients next year including 333,275 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan,” Shuster added. “By passing this bill, the House has made sure our returning veterans are covered with world class health care.”

Specifically, the bill makes improvements in the following areas:

- Funds the Veterans Health Administration at \$40.8 billion, which is \$1.6 billion over the President’s request and \$3.9 billion above 2008, for veterans medical care.
- Funds veterans medical services at \$30.9 billion, \$1 billion above the President’s request and \$2.8 billion above 2008, to improve access to medical services for all veterans. This new funding will allow the Veterans Administration to increase services to Priority 8 veterans; increase mental health and substance abuse services; use \$200 million for fee-based care; increase veterans travel reimbursement from 28.5 cents per mile to 41.5 cents; and direct \$1.6 billion for the development of next generation prosthetics.

The House passed the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act today. The Senate still needs to act on this legislation for it to be sent to the President for his signature.

###