

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – June 19, 2007

Puget Sound VA System: Getting Answers on the Safety of our VA facility

Recently, a commission raised concerns with conditions at Puget Sound VA facilities. When I first heard these reports, I immediately [wrote to](#) the VA Secretary and the VA's top medical official to get answers. On Thursday, I met with the VA's top medical official and he assured me that steps are being taken to fix the problems.

On Friday, I personally toured the Seattle VA to get a first-hand look at the conditions and to check on improvements. I came away encouraged that steps are being taken to correct the problems that were raised but I will continue to monitor the situation.

["Murray inspects Seattle VA hospital"](#) – Associated Press

Veterans: Standing Up for our "Wounded Warriors"

On Thursday, I stood with veterans, service organizations and bipartisan leaders to introduce the new "Wounded Warriors" bill, a comprehensive proposal to eliminate the gaps in care that returning service members face.

[More](#)

["Sen. Murray outlines bill to improve care for wounded soldiers"](#) – Tacoma News Tribune

Banning Asbestos: Testimony Helps Move My Bill to Ban Asbestos Forward

On Tuesday, I testified at a hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the urgent need to ban the importation and use of asbestos in the U.S. I spoke in favor of my [Ban Asbestos in America Act of 2007](#), which bans asbestos, dramatically expands research, and invests in disease treatment programs and public awareness campaigns. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chairman of Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, expressed her full support for my legislation and her confidence that the bill would move forward.

[More](#) | [Watch my testimony](#)

["Murray pushes for asbestos ban this year"](#) – Seattle PI

WA Military: Fulfilling the Needs of our State's Military Facilities

This week I worked to make Washington state's military facilities stronger. I helped to move forward a bill that provides more than \$364 million for the facilities that our state's service members depend on. I am especially pleased that I was able to add \$10.9 million to the legislation to construct a new facility that will train more than 10,000 sailors at Naval Station Everett.

[Read more](#) about funding for facilities at **Fort Lewis, Yakima, Bangor, Bremerton, and Whidbey Island**.

[Learn more](#) about the **Everett** Project.

Veterans Funding 2008: Helping to Bring About the Funding Increase our Vets Deserve

On Tuesday, I was pleased to help provide \$87 billion in funding for veterans across our nation in the annual spending bill that funds the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). That funding total is \$3.7 billion more than the President's funding request and will help to improve health care, expand mental health services, fix the VA benefits process, and construct new veterans facilities.

[More](#)

Washington's Regional Veterans Clinics

As part of the annual veterans spending bill, I was also able to include important language that moves several critical regional VA projects in Washington state forward. To read about those individual projects and facilities click on the links below and read the corresponding news stories from papers across our state.

[Walla Walla](#) – ["Murray Asks VA Clinic for WW Funds"](#) – Walla Walla Union Bulletin

[Northwest Washington](#) – ["Senate panel urges VA to keep pursuing local clinic"](#) – The Bellingham Herald

[Wenatchee](#) – ["Temporary VA clinic opens its doors"](#) – The Wenatchee World

Read More in my [latest veterans update](#).

Homeland Security: Funding our State's Security Priorities

On Tuesday, I was pleased to announce that I successfully included funding for many of Washington state's top security priorities in the annual homeland security funding bill. Through my position as a member of the Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Committee, I was able to secure full funding for port security grants under my SAFE Ports Act, \$6 million for a radiation detection screening center in Tacoma, and \$15 million for a research facility on Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Read more about all of this important funding below.

[Full Funding of Port Security Program](#)

[\\$6 Million for Port of Tacoma Screening Test Center](#)

[\\$15 Million for Critical Research Center on Hanford Nuclear Reservation](#)