

Congressman Rubén Hinojosa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Rubén Hinojosa

MC
Prsrst Std

Congressman **RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

HONORING OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

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Are You Having Problems With Your Veterans' Benefits? Congressman Hinojosa's Office Wants to Help

Edinburg Office:

2864 West Trenton Road
Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: (956) 682-5545
Fax: (956) 682-0141

Beeville Office:

107 South St. Mary's Street
Beeville, Texas 78102
Phone: (361) 358-8400
Fax: (361) 358-8407



Rep. Hinojosa honors the services of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard.

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INSIDE: UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED
VA HOSPITAL IN SOUTH TEXAS



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Congressman
RUBÉN HINOJOSA

Fighting to Bring a Veterans Hospital to South Texas

For years, our South Texas veterans have struggled with limited access to health care and have been forced to travel up to 10 hours round-trip to San Antonio's Audie Murphy Hospital. These patriotic men and women have gone too long without a veterans hospital. They deserve a solution to an inexcusable inequality in health care and a continued lack of response by the Veterans Administration.

I have long fought to bring a full-service VA hospital to the region and have made it a top priority to educate members of Congress about our veterans' plight. In September, I arranged for **U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi** to visit our district and meet with representatives from our veteran community to learn more about their medical difficulties.

The Speaker sat down with two of the Valley's most esteemed leaders – Vietnam War veterans Tony Cardova and State Rep. Juan Escobar. I am pleased to report that the meeting with the Speaker was productive, and she realized the concerns of our area veterans. Speaker Pelosi is in our corner in the fight for a VA hospital. I plan to work closely with her in the coming months to move our agenda forward.

Also this year, **Rep. Bob Filner, Chairman of the important House Committee on Veterans' Affairs**, came down to talk with area veterans at a town hall meeting in Donna. Rep. Filner learned firsthand about the issues our veterans face and was extremely impressed by the crowd who turned out for the event. Rep. Filner has promised to do everything he can to move forward legislation authored by my colleague, Rep. Solomon Ortiz. Successful passage of Ortiz's bill could finally bring a VA hospital to South Texas.

The prospects for a veterans hospital in South Texas are promising, but we must keep up the fight. I will continue to work with the South Texas delegation and Congress so that we can finally provide the care we owe our patriotic veterans. I will not stop until they finally get the services they need.

Rubén Hinojosa

A NEW DIRECTION FOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, it should be our solemn pledge that when our brave troops return home, we will leave no veteran behind.

In the 110th Congress, we have already made great strides toward fulfilling this promise by providing more benefits to those who have valiantly defended our nation. My colleagues and I have passed record increases for veterans' care, passed new legislation expanding benefits, and conducted real oversight to make sure the Veterans Administration offers its patients the benefits they deserve. We are doing more than ever to honor the bravery of our nation's soldiers. In only nine months, we have:

- ✓ Increased funding for veterans' benefits by \$6.7 billion, the largest single increase in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration.
- ✓ Passed a 3.5% pay raise for our troops, which will put \$7 billion into our soldiers' pockets over the next five years.
- ✓ Expanded health care coverage by extending the eligibility period for Persian Gulf veterans and by entitling veterans to health care for five years after discharge instead of just two years.
- ✓ Addressed treatment for veterans with traumatic brain injuries, ensuring that our veterans are properly screened and receive the appropriate treatment.
- ✓ Passed the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which helps our veterans get the medical care they need and provides help in navigating the military's health care bureaucracy.

Our veterans have made great sacrifices in defense of our country, and Congress is committed to recognizing their service and valor through actions, not just words.



Rep. Hinojosa speaks about veterans' issues at Delta Lake in Elsa.



Rep. Hinojosa and Speaker Nancy Pelosi discuss veterans' issues with State Rep. Juan Escobar and Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Tony Cardova.