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Military Newsletter

44TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA • AUGUST 2008
CONGRESSMAN KEN CALVERT



Dear Service Members, Retirees, and Veterans,

One of my most vital duties as a Congressman is to provide for our military and their families. Since my first term in 1993, providing for our military has been a top priority and I continue to work in Congress to faithfully represent current and former service members.

An issue facing all Americans is the incredibly high price of gasoline, which is now averaging above \$4.60 per gallon in our area. The dramatic rise in the price of gasoline is largely a result of world-wide tight supply and increased demand. Currently, the price of oil makes up more than 70% of the cost of a gallon of gasoline. The most meaningful step we can take to decrease prices is to increase oil supplies here domestically through enhanced exploration of American resources.

Estimates show that offshore exploration would yield **86 billion barrels of oil**, not to mention vast quantities of natural gas. Over the past few decades, advances in exploration technology and increased regulatory precautions have made it possible to conduct exploration offshore that is out of the line of sight, protects the environment, and prevents oil spills. Another area that has proven reserves of oil is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration the estimate of technically recoverable oil in ANWR is **10.4 billion barrels**—all of which is now economically recoverable. Energy exploration would be limited to just 2,000 acres of ANWR's 20 million acres, which is 0.01% of the land (it is the equivalent of a postage stamp on a football field).

I believe U.S. energy policy should include a variety of technologies and sources to reduce our dependence on oil. In the long term it means developing alternative sources such as hydrogen fuel cell technology, nuclear energy, and solar and wind technology in combination with conservation efforts. Decreasing oil imports will improve the U.S. trade deficit and reduce the need to rely on undemocratic countries in unstable regions. Additionally, every dollar spent on domestically produced oil goes into the American economy—creating jobs, growth, and tax generation, which is preferable to having foreign countries reap these benefits.

In the meantime, I will continue to serve the military community in Washington, D.C. It is an honor to represent you in Congress and please contact my office with your input.

Sincerely,



KEN CALVERT

Member of Congress



Support the Troops

www.americasupportsyou.mil

P.S. Please sign up for urgent updates that impact the military community via email through my website at www.calvert.house.gov.

Contact Representative Ken Calvert at one of the following addresses or through his website www.calvert.house.gov:

WASHINGTON, DC
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-1986
Fax: (202) 225-2004

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
3400 Central Ave., Ste. 200
Riverside, CA 92506
Phone: (951) 784-4300
Fax: (951) 784-5255

ORANGE COUNTY
26111 Antonio Pkwy, Ste 300
Las Flores, CA 92688
Phone: (949) 888-8498
Fax: (949) 888-8524

ALERT! Did You Know You Can Register to Vote Up to 15 Days Before An Election?

NEXT ELECTION: November 4, 2008 General Election LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS OCTOBER 20, 2008

Where do I obtain a form to register? Your local post office, library, Department of Motor Vehicles, city and county offices, call 800-773-VOTE or visit www.voteinfo.net. Mail your form to register to vote! The postage is pre-paid. Just drop it in any mailbox. Also, you may visit the appropriate website below to register to vote in your county:

Riverside County

www.election.co.riverside.ca.us or (951) 486-7200

Orange County

www.ocvote.com or (714) 567-7600

Rep. Calvert Provides Answers to Questions on the New G.I. Bill

On June 30, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Emergency War Supplemental, which included the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the "21st Century GI Bill". The bill, H.R. 2642, which passed with Congressman Calvert's support, includes important changes for current service members and veterans.

What is the New GI Bill? The Post- 9/11 GI Bill is a new benefit providing educational assistance to individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

When Can I Receive Benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill? Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

Am I Eligible? Individuals must have served at least 30 days of continuous active duty service after September 10, 2001, and be discharged due to a service-connected disability, or served an aggregate of 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001, and be honorably discharged or retired.

How much assistance will I receive? Individuals are entitled to a percentage, as determined by the length of active duty service, of the following: amount of tuition and fees charged, monthly housing allowance, and yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1000 per year.

To Learn More About the New G.I. Bill visit: www.gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)

For a list of all legislation cosponsored by Rep. Calvert that benefits service members, veterans and military families please visit www.calvert.house.gov

Your Rebate May Be Waiting For You!

According to the IRS, there are approximately 8,500 seniors and veterans in the 44th Congressional District who may be eligible to receive a rebate check but have yet to file their 2007 tax return.

If you haven't filed a 2007 return yet, it's not too late! For both Orange County and Riverside County, local agents stand by ready to assist you to file your return and collect your rebate:

IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center

801 Civic Center Drive W.

Santa Ana, CA 92701

(714) 347-9204

Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.



REP. CALVERT meets with Marines at Camp Pendleton to discuss ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and thank them for their service.

Providing for the Warfighter

On May 22, 2008, the FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill passed the House with my support. The bill authorizes \$531.4 billion in spending for vital resources and our military which include the following highlights:

- Funding for force protection including \$2.6 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, \$947 million for Up-Armored HMMWVs, and \$2.2 billion for Abrams tank, Bradley fighting vehicle, and Stryker vehicle upgrades.
- \$3.9 billion for an additional 15 C-17s.
- A 3.9% pay raise for all members of the armed forces in 2009 and guaranteed pay raises in 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- An additional \$800 million for National Guard and Reserve equipment.

To learn about more details, please visit: armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/fy09ndaa/FINAL051508.pdf