

Mahoney Statement on Resignation of Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson

(July 17, 2007)

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) today responded to the resignation of Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson with the following statement:

"Our veterans deserve a strong commitment from the President and Congress to improve care, services, and facilities in the VA system. The current backlog of disability claims, deteriorating infrastructure at some facilities, and other sub par conditions have been neglected for far too long. I urge the President to choose a successor who is known for independence, competence, and commitment to our veterans," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

Congressman Mahoney has been working to improve care for veterans. He cosponsored the Pay Veterans First Act to freeze the bonuses of senior political appointees at the Department of Veterans Affairs until the backlog of pending disability claims is reduced from the 600,000 now estimated to fewer than 100,000. Mahoney also proudly supported a \$6.7 billion increase in funding for veterans services, the largest increase in funding for veterans services in our nation's history. In addition, Mahoney has sponsored and supported several bills to improve the veterans and military healthcare systems to ensure that soldiers and veterans get the care they deserve.