

## Celebrate America's Independence by Honoring Our Troops

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The 4th of July season is a time to celebrate our independence and give thanks to the brave men and women who defend our country. America is only as strong as our men and women in uniform. That is why I am fighting to make sure our troops get the resources they need in the field and the care they deserve when they return home.

It is a tragic fact of war that many of our best and bravest are lost in battle, while many others survive traumatic combat injury but return home with equally serious psychological wounds. Having visited our brave soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as well as clinics in Florida, I believe we need to do more to improve care for the physical and emotional wounds incurred in battle.

I was proud to take the first step by helping pass the largest increase in veterans' healthcare funding in the Veterans Administration's history. I have also cosponsored legislation to make sure this money does not go to waste. This legislation would prohibit senior political appointees at the VA from getting bonuses until the backlog of disability cases is reduced from 600,000 to fewer than 100,000. It is not right that our wounded warriors should have to wait for the help they deserve, while senior political appointees at the VA walk away with \$30,000 bonuses each.

As we celebrate our independence and the brave men and women who have tirelessly defended our freedom, let us renew our commitment to our troops and veterans by improving care and getting them the resources, support, and respect they deserve.

Congressman Tim Mahoney

Florida's 16th Congressional District.