

Mahoney Announces Veterans History Project

Mahoney will Lead Effort to Connect Students and Veterans as part of the Library of Congress' Veterans' History Project

(November 12, 2007)

(Palm Beach Gardens, FL) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) announced the start of the Veterans' History Project effort in Florida's 16th Congressional District today at Palm Beach Gardens High School. The Veterans History Project is an initiative run through the Library of Congress to collect and preserve wartime stories. Congressman Mahoney will connect high school social studies and TV production students with veterans in the eight counties in his district to interview and record the veterans' stories. The students will screen the veterans' stories in Spring 2008 and then send the interviews to the Library of Congress for preservation in the national archives.

During today's event, Congressman Mahoney introduced Veterans Lawrence Schwartz and Piero Pareja, both of whom spoke with the students about their experiences. Schwartz fought in the assault on San Manuel in the Luzon area of the Phillipines under the E 161st Infantry Regiment and Pareja served in Afghanistan in 2005 with the Army National Guard.

"On this Veterans Day, it's vital that our nation honors those who have defended our freedom. America is forever grateful for our brave men and woman's service," said Congressman Mahoney. "The Veterans History Project is vital to ensuring that the heroic service of our brave men and woman will not be forgotten. I hope that our veterans recognize that it is important to tell their stories to our youth so our next generation learns that freedom is not free."

The Veterans History Project was authorized by Public Law 106-380 and signed into law by President Clinton on October 27, 2000.

Since taking office, Congressman Mahoney has been working with his colleagues to pass meaningful legislation that gets our veterans the care they need and eases the burden on military families. He was proud to support an \$8 billion increase in Veterans Administration funding, which is the largest increase for Veterans in our nation's history. Mahoney has cosponsored legislation to improve and expand Veterans health and education benefits, formed a Veterans Advisory Council to directly communicate with the veterans of Florida's 16th District, and regularly assists veterans in obtaining the benefits they deserve. The Congressman regularly visits wounded soldiers from our community at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington and fought for a 3.5 percent pay raise for our troops, which the President had threatened to veto.

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