

Mahoney Delivers on Veterans' Healthcare

Raises Travel Reimbursement from 11 to 28.5 cents per mile

(February 5, 2008)

(Stuart, FL) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) announced an increase in mileage reimbursement for eligible Veterans traveling to VA medical facilities, from 11 cents per mile to 28.5 cents per mile. Mahoney fought for this increase as part of an appropriations bill that went into effect this week.

"For a 110 mile roundtrip trip from Okeechobee to the West Palm Beach VA Hospital, where gas costs an average of \$3.50 per gallon, our Veterans-especially those on a fixed income-were being put in a position of financial hardship," said Congressman Mahoney. "While 28.5 cents per mile is a great improvement, this is still not enough; there is no reason Veterans shouldn't receive the same maximum 50.5 cent per mile reimbursement that somebody working for the President would receive, and I will continue fighting for this."

"Congressman Mahoney is a man of action, not words. We brought this to his attention and he took action. We're glad to have a Congressman who looks out for Veterans," said C.F. Cline, a disabled Veteran of Port Charlotte, who coordinates a group of volunteer drivers for veterans.

"Highlands County Veterans have felt the brunt of this low reimbursement as recent gasoline prices have skyrocketed. We are grateful to Congressman Mahoney for his help in ensuring that the needs of veterans are met and healthcare accessibility is not denied," said Joseph Dionne, Highlands County Veteran Services Officer.

The mileage increase was part of the 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which allocated \$37.2 billion to the Veterans Health Administration. The bill was passed by a vote of 272-142 on December 19, 2007.

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