



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BISHOP, HOUSE DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE GI BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

*Bishop Touts Legislative Action to Improve Benefits for Current and Future Vets*

Washington, DC-- Congressman Tim Bishop joined House Democrats yesterday to introduce the GI Bill of Rights for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The new GI Bill would improve benefits for our men and women in uniform and provide long overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served.

“The United States asks our young men and women to serve this nation as volunteers,” Bishop said at an event to announce the legislation in the U.S. Capitol. “The least we can do is honor those returning home from conflict by providing secure health care, educational opportunities, and incentives to help afford a home for their families. And for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, it is our duty and obligation to support their husbands or wives and their children.”

Bishop and fellow Democrats were joined by former NATO Commander General Wesley Clark and representatives from various organizations that support the bill, including AMVETS, American Legion, Air Force Association, Gold Star Wives, and Military Officers Association of America.

“I am proud to stand with those who have served our nation so proudly and announce to those who have yet to return home from combat that we will repay our debt to you by assisting you and your families,” Bishop said. “The principles of this bill portray how a grateful nation should treat its veterans.”

At his many Town Hall meetings, Bishop has often stated that one of his priorities in Congress is the support of Veterans issues. Bishop believes that the GI Bill of Rights for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will address many areas needing improvement including improving veterans’ healthcare and mental healthcare for returning soldiers. The Bill will also end the unfair Disabled Veterans Tax, which requires veterans to forfeit one dollar of their retirement pension for every dollar received in disability pay. The Bill will also increase survivor benefits for families with minor children, modernize and enhance the GI Bill and Job Training Program, provide additional funds to provide homeless veterans with employment, and expand military health care (TRICARE) for National Guard veterans and Reservists.

In 1944, the Congress enacted the original GI Bill first drafted by the American Legion in order to honor the Greatest Generation, who ultimately won World War II. In doing so, the Federal Government supported our returning troops with educational benefits, loans to buy a home, and medical assistance. Nearly 8 million veterans went to school under the GI Bill. In each military conflict since Korean and Vietnam, we have honored the service of our soldiers through a new GI Bill.

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