

CONGRESSMAN

# Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Neighbor,

In this time of Thanksgiving, I would like to recognize the many veterans, active-duty military members, and their families who live in our communities on the central coast of California and thank them for their sacrifice and service. As your United States Representative, I am working hard to serve those who served us by completing casework for veterans and active-duty military members on the Central Coast and advocating and supporting our veterans, active-duty military members, and their families with bipartisan legislation in Washington, D.C.



*Posthumously presented ten medals to the family of Army Tech Corporal David Schultz for his service during World War II.*

## **Serving Veterans and Active-Duty Military on the Central Coast**

The Central Coast is privileged to have thousands of active-duty servicemembers and veterans living in our community. I am committed to ensuring that they have timely access to the healthcare, retirement, disability, and educational benefits they earned through their service and sacrifice.

If you or your loved one needs assistance with a Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) claim, information on a VA home loan, help obtaining a copy of military records or medals, and much more, please contact my office at 831-424-2229 or visit <https://panetta.house.gov/military-and-veterans>.

For example, my office has successfully completed case work for a number of veterans and active-duty servicemembers:

- Secured records and referral for a veteran in need of a physical therapy appointment through use of the Veterans Choice Program.
- Verified eligibility for Social Security disability compensation for a veteran.
- Resolved an administrative error in order to allow active-duty servicemember in the Navy to use accrued leave time.
- Helped the family of late veteran, Tech Corporal David Schultz, in obtaining ten posthumous medals for his service during World War II.

### **Honoring Veterans and Active-Duty Military on the Central Coast**



*Participated in the Visiting Nurses Association pinning of flags recognition ceremonies for veterans at retirement homes.*



*Gave the keynote speech at first-ever Veterans Transition Center (VTC) Gala and was honored to be a part of an event that did so much for the VTC and homeless veterans.*



*Sailed with fellow veterans aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research vessel Fulmar for the “Vet into your Sanctuary” event on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. [Click here to read more about his event.](#)*

[Click here to see more pictures from Veterans Day 2018 events throughout our district.](#)



### **Advocating for Veterans and Active-Duty Military in Washington, D.C.**

I am proud to have authored and introduced bipartisan bills to support our student veterans on college campuses. The [Veterans Resource Center Act](#) would authorize grants for Veterans Resource Centers to advise, assist, and support military-connected students and encourage priority registration for veterans. I co-introduced the [GI Bill Transfer Extension Act](#), legislation that will increase flexibility for service members seeking to transfer their GI Bill education benefits. I will continue to work to support veterans and their families in their pursuit of higher education.



*Announced the introduction of my legislation on the Veterans Resource Center Act at California State University Monterey Bay.*



*Met with Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie to discuss improving health care for our veterans and the status of the Major General Gourley VA-DOD Outpatient Clinic.*



*Met with representatives of the American Disabled Veterans organization in my Washington, D.C. office.*

### **Legislating for Our Veterans and Active-Duty Military in Washington, D.C.**

When it comes to veterans, Congress continues to work in a bipartisan manner to serve those who served us. This year, Congress passed and the President signed into law 32 pieces of legislation to benefit veterans and active-duty military members.

Those bills include the following: the [VA MISSION Act](#) to address in-network and non-VA healthcare issues, veterans' homes, access to walk-in VA care, prescription drug procedures, and more; the [National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018](#); the [Veterans Providing Healthcare Transition Improvement Act](#); and the [Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2018](#) to expand Veterans Justice Outreach Program and incentivize new veterans treatment courts advances through Congress.

[Click here to read more about the 32 bills.](#)

### **Providing Opportunities for Veterans**

I was proud to offer a military fellowship to former Marine infantry officer and veteran John Vrolyk during the Spring and Summer semesters this year. Having grown up in the Bay area, John had a solid understanding of our district's military installations and veteran population. John was invaluable in his service to our office as a staff member on armed services, defense, and foreign policy issues, and worked on policy to support veterans in the military-civilian transition.



*Meeting with military fellow, John Vrolyk, far left, and other veterans working on the Hill who are interested in engaging in policy, politics, and government.*

**Request a Flag**

Did you know that you can purchase an American flag that was flown over the United States Capitol? Flags are flown daily, year-round, weather permitting. After it is flown over the Capitol, each flag is issued a keepsake Certificate of Authenticity by the Architect of the Capitol. To request a flag, please complete the form [here](#).

**Veterans Mobile Office Hours**

Mobile office hours are an opportunity for veterans in the community to meet with Congressional staff and are offered in addition to meetings in the Salinas and Santa Cruz Congressional offices. To schedule a meeting, please call our Salinas District Office: (831) 424-2229.

**Aptos**

Monday, November 26, 2018

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Veterans Information Center (VIC), Cabrillo College

6500 Soquel Drive

Building 900, #914

Aptos, CA 95003

As a veteran, and as your representative in the United States Congress, I am committed to ensuring that veterans and all constituents of California's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District have access to the critical services provided by the federal government.

I thank all our veterans, active-duty military members, and their families for their service to our nation.

If you would like to get similar updates in the future, please sign up for newsletters by clicking [here](#). You can also find more information about legislation, votes cast in the U.S. House of Representatives, or the legislative process [here](#).

If you have any questions or issues that I or my staff can help you with, please call or contact my Congressional offices in Salinas, Santa Cruz, or Washington, D.C. or through <https://panetta.house.gov>. Please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know how I can continue to serve you.

I hope that you have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JP" followed by a stylized flourish.

JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress