

CONGRESSMAN

Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Neighbor,

This Veterans Day, I would like to recognize the many veterans 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 honored to serve those who have served our nation and fight for the benefits that our veterans have earned and rightfully deserve.

Since taking office, my staff and I have solved nearly 600 cases to secure U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, health care, military records, and service medals for veterans.

I will continue to advocate for our nation's veterans and active-duty military members and their families with bipartisan legislation in Washington, D.C.



Veterans Mobile Office Hours

Having trouble with a federal agency? My office can help you with issues regarding the VA, searching for military records, and any other federal matters. Mobile office hours are an opportunity for veterans living on the central coast of California to meet with Congressional staff members, and are offered in addition to meetings in the Salinas and Santa Cruz Congressional offices. To schedule a meeting, please call our Salinas office at 831-424-2229.

WHEN & WHERE:

Wednesday, December 4 – Santa Cruz
Veterans Memorial Building
846 Front Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



ENSURING PROPER RECOGNITION FOR OUR VETERANS

Juan Lopez Gallegos
Salinas, CA

Mr. Gallegos is a United States Marine Corps veteran who was entitled to an Operation Restore Hope ribbon for his service in Somalia. After trying for years to have his service record corrected with the VA to no avail, Mr. Gallegos contacted my office. We contacted the VA, secured Mr. Gallegos' rightfully earned award, and ensured that his record properly reflected his military service.

“It wasn't until I reached out to Congressman Panetta that any progress was made — and it was fast. I got my ribbon and updated form DD214. Congressman Panetta's team also kept me in the loop at each step, which I really appreciated.”

— Juan Lopez Gallegos

Recent News

My staff recently [worked to ensure](#) that a late World War One veteran was properly laid to rest and interred near his wife at San Francisco National Cemetery.



Standing with members of the community as we honor the life and service of a WWI Veteran and Monterey Native, Edward Adams. Our casework ensured that he was properly laid to rest.

I helped secure a [federal grant](#) totaling \$6,417,059 for the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery in Seaside. Local leaders, community members, and veterans have worked long and hard for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. This federal investment adds to that ongoing effort by helping the cemetery meet the goals for its master plan. This grant will help fund phase II of the cemetery, which is planned to include in-ground burials.

Recent Legislation

This year, I have introduced multiple pieces of legislation, and cosponsored an additional 31 bipartisan bills, to help veterans in our communities, including:

- Introduced the Legal Services for Homeless Veterans Act, HR 3749, a bill to provide grants to organizations that provide legal services for homeless and at-risk veterans.
- Introduced the Full Military Honors Act, HR 1019, to ensure that prisoners of war and Medal of Honor recipients receive full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Introduced legislation directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine or the

National Cancer Institute to conduct a study on radiation exposure relating to prostate cancer.

- Co-introduced the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act, HR 1377. This bipartisan legislation provides the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Co-introduced the Burn Pits Accountability Act, HR 663. This bipartisan legislation directs the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals.
- Cosponsored the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, HR 553. This bipartisan legislation repeals the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan for military surviving spouses to offset the receipt of veterans dependency and indemnity compensation.
- Cosponsored the Homeless Veteran Families Act, HR 95. This bipartisan legislation ensures that children of homeless veterans are included in the calculation of the amounts of certain per diem grants. The bill passed the House and sits in the Senate.
- Cosponsored the Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act, HR 3495. This bipartisan legislation requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities.
- Cosponsored the Honoring Veterans' Families Act, HR 1126. This bipartisan legislation allows the spouse and dependent children of a veteran to be included on the veteran's grave marker upon his or her death. Due to a flaw in current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cannot include almost any information about the spouse or dependent children of a veteran on a VA-provided tombstone.
- Cosponsored the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, HR 299. This legislation, passed unanimously by the House, ensures that the nearly 90,000 veterans who served on ships in the seas around Vietnam are granted the same Veterans Affairs benefits status as troops who served on the ground or on ships stationed close to shore. This bill was signed into law.
- Cosponsored the Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act, HR 3495, a bill to coordinate and improve the suicide prevention services available to our veterans.



If you would like to receive future updates, please sign up for my 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 panetta.house.gov. Please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know how I can continue to best serve you.

Sincerely,

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress