

CONGRESSMAN

JARED



GOLDEN



STANDING UP FOR MAINE VETERANS

MAINE HAS A LONG, PROUD TRADITION OF MILITARY SERVICE. MORE THAN ONE IN TEN MAINERS IS A VETERAN, AND CONGRESSMAN GOLDEN IS ONE OF THEM. HE UNDERSTANDS THE SACRIFICES VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE MADE FOR OUR COUNTRY AND HE'S WORKING HARD TO MAKE SURE THEY RECEIVE THE BENEFITS THEY'VE EARNED.

HERE IN MAINE

CONGRESSMAN GOLDEN AND HIS STAFF WORK DIRECTLY WITH VETERANS TO ENSURE THEY GET THE BENEFITS THEY'VE EARNED THROUGH SERVICE.

AFTER **ERNEST FROM AROOSTOOK COUNTY** SERVED IN OPERATION DESERT STORM, HE CAME DOWN WITH ILLNESSES RELATED TO HIS SERVICE. AFTER YEARS OF STRUGGLING WITH THE VA AND SOCIAL SECURITY, OUR OFFICE GOT INVOLVED. **WE HELPED HIM RESOLVE HIS CLAIMS AND GET THE FULL BENEFIT HE WAS ENTITLED TO.**

IT HAD TAKEN SO LONG FOR **JACQUELINE FROM PENOBSCOT COUNTY** TO RECEIVE HER SPOUSAL BENEFITS AFTER HER HUSBAND PASSED AWAY FROM A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY THAT SHE HAD GIVEN UP TRYING. **OUR OFFICE GOT INVOLVED AND GOT HER BENEFITS CLAIM RESOLVED QUICKLY.**

MICHAEL FROM SOMERSET COUNTY IS A RETIRED MILITARY OFFICER WHO HADN'T RECEIVED THE PAY THAT HE HAD EARNED AT HIS RANK. HE TRIED TO WORK THROUGH THE ISSUE FOR FIVE YEARS, WITHOUT MUCH LUCK. **OUR OFFICE QUICKLY LOCATED THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM AND ADVOCATED FOR HIM THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS TO CORRECT THE ERROR.**

...AND IN CONGRESS

CONGRESSMAN GOLDEN IS FOCUSED ON IMPROVING VA CARE AND PROTECTING VETERANS BENEFITS.

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CARE AT TOGUS

- PASSED THROUGH THE HOUSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE VA APPROPRIATIONS BILL (H.R. 3055) THAT INCREASES FUNDING FOR LONG-TERM MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE BEDS AT VA FACILITIES.
- WORKING WITH LEADERS AT TOGUS AND THE NATIONAL VA TO BRING LONG-TERM MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE BEDS TO MAINE, SAVING VETERANS FROM BEING SENT TO OTHER STATES TO RECEIVE CARE.

PROTECTING VETERANS' FAMILIES

- COSPONSORED THE SFC BRIAN WOODS GOLD STAR AND MILITARY SURVIVORS ACT (H.R. 1911), WHICH WOULD EXPAND BENEFITS TO SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS OF SERVICEMEMBERS, INCLUDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE, COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES, NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF THE DECEASED'S REMAINS TO TWO LOCATIONS, AND OTHER BENEFITS.
- WORKING WITH MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES TO URGE HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS TO PRESERVE THE REPEAL OF THE 'WIDOW'S TAX.' THE TAX HAD REDUCED SURVIVING SPOUSES' BENEFITS BY \$11,000 A YEAR.
- COSPONSORED AND HELPED PASS THROUGH THE HOUSE THE SECURE ACT (H.R. 1944) TO SHIELD GOLD STAR FAMILIES FROM A STEEP TAX INCREASE ON THEIR SURVIVORS BENEFITS.
- COSPONSORED THE WOMEN VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES HEALTH SERVICES ACT (H.R. 955), WHICH WOULD IMPROVE REPRODUCTIVE AND FERTILITY SERVICES PROVIDED TO SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

IMPROVING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

- COSPONSORED H.R. 2398 WHICH WOULD EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR THE HUD-VA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM.

EXPANDING VA BENEFITS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED ILLNESSES

- HELPED PASS INTO LAW THE BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT (H.R. 299), WHICH EXTENDS DISABILITY BENEFITS COVERING MEDICAL CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE TO VETERANS WHO SERVED ON SHIPS OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM.
- COSPONSORED THE AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE FAIRNESS ACT (H.R. 566), WHICH WOULD REMOVE A FRUSTRATING BARRIER TO CARE — THE DEADLINE FOR PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION — FOR THOUSANDS OF VETERANS SUFFERING FROM DISEASES RESULTING FROM EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE.
- COSPONSORED THE MARK TAKAI ATOMIC VETERANS HEALTHCARE PARITY ACT (H.R. 1377), WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE TREATMENT OF RADIATION-EXPOSED VETERANS PARTICIPATING IN NUCLEAR CLEAN-UP WORK BETWEEN 1970 AND 1980.

MODERNIZING VETERANS CARE AND BENEFITS

- COSPONSORED THE VETERANS CANNABIS USE FOR SAFE HEALING ACT (H.R. 2191), WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT THE VA FROM DENYING BENEFITS TO VETERANS USING MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN STATES WHERE IT IS LEGAL, AND WOULD ALLOW VA DOCTORS TO DISCUSS MEDICAL MARIJUANA USE WITH THEIR PATIENTS.
- COSPONSORED THE BREAK PAY FOR VETERANS ACT (H.R. 2230), WHICH WOULD EXTEND THE HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR VETERANS ATTENDING SCHOOL ON THE GI BILL TO COVER THE ENTIRE TIME VETERANS SPEND AT SCHOOL.
- COSPONSORED THE ACCELERATING VETERAN RECOVERY OUTDOORS ACT (H.R. 2435), WHICH WOULD IDENTIFY WAYS TO EXPAND ACCESS AND USAGE OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR OUTDOOR THERAPY AND REHABILITATION TREATMENTS FOR VETERANS.