

Save The Date!

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez will host the

THE 4TH ANNUAL ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS' FAIR

Saturday, August 11, 2007

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Garden Grove Elks Lodge
11551 Trask Avenue, Garden Grove

- Free Health Screenings administered by the VA Long Beach Healthcare System
- Benefits Counseling by the CA Employment Development Department
- Long Term Care
- Family Counseling
- Employment Opportunities
- Eligibility/Enrollment
- Legal Services
- Homeless Outreach
- Local Veterans' Organizations
- Entertainment

CONGRESSIONAL OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2007 ☆ 5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

Office of Rep. Loretta Sanchez
12397 Lewis Street, Suite 101
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez
U.S. House of Representatives
12397 Lewis Street, Suite 101, Garden Grove, CA 92840
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

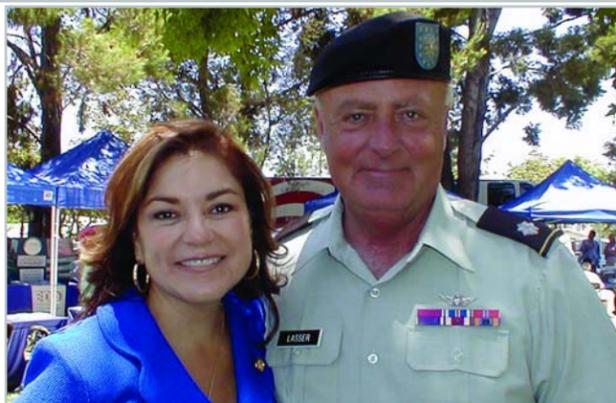
Loretta Sanchez
M.C.
Prsrl Std

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This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Mark your calendar.

The 4th Annual Orange County Veterans' Fair will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2007. Free health screenings, benefits counseling, legal services will be available from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Learn more inside.



At left: Sanchez discusses need for increased veterans funding at the 2006 Orange County Veterans' Fair

America's Commitment to Our Veterans

An update from Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez



"As your Congresswoman, I work hard to ensure our government provides the best quality of life, medical care and benefits for our military service members, veterans and their families."

—Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez



Dear Veteran,

I join the American people in thanking you for your honorable service to our country. Your service in the United States Armed Forces has afforded freedom to American families and people around the world.

Earlier this year the Walter Reed scandal upset Americans and their trust in our government to provide adequate healthcare for our returning soldiers and new veterans. This is unacceptable.

The Democratic-led Congress took action to increase VA funding by 4 million, \$32 billion over the President's budget for the next five years. The increase will address the rising healthcare costs and account for the estimated 219,000 new veterans and 5.8 million patients in 2008. This will also provide for needed improvements in care, maintenance of VA health facilities and help reduce claims backlogs.

I would also like to invite you and your family to the 4th Annual Orange County Veterans' Fair where free health screenings, VA benefits counseling and other services will be available.

Again, thank you for your service and I look forward to seeing you on August 11th in Garden Grove.

Sincerely,

CONGRESSWOMAN LORETTA SANCHEZ

An update on military and veterans' issues in Congress

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez is working to improve military and veterans benefits



Above: Sanchez leads Congressional delegation to Iraq where she met with service members to access military operations

PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES

To upgrade the health care services offered to active duty and retired troops, H.R. 1585 would hold the line on TRICARE and pharmacy program fee increases, restore 2,300 medical personnel, fully fund health facility maintenance, and promote research on emerging mental health treatments and technologies. In light of the Walter Reed scandal, H.R. 1538 improves outpatient medical care for wounded service members at military health care facilities.

IMPROVING BRAIN INJURY SCREENING AND TREATMENT

More than half of combat casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have associated brain injuries, often due to improvised explosive devices.

To address this growing trend, the Traumatic Brain Injury Bill (H.R. 2199) would improve screening and treatment for possible brain injuries.

ENSURING PROPER TREATMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

Mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, may not be immediately evident when our servicemen return home. To make sure post traumatic stress disorder is properly diagnosed and treated, Loretta is pushing to extend the healthcare legibility period from two to five years.

GIVING OUR SOLDIERS THE PAY AND BENEFITS THEY DESERVE

The Military Pay Raise (H.R. 1585) calls for an across the board pay raise of 3.5 percent (0.5 percent more than the President's budget request) and provides special pay and bonuses. And to end the unfair penalty against widows, the legislation pushes to establish a special survivor indemnity allowance.

IMPROVING VETERAN OUTREACH AND BENEFIT ASSISTANCE

The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act (H.R. 67) would allow the VA to partner with state and local governments to improve communication and ensure veterans are receiving all eligible benefits and assistance submitting claims. It also provides federal grants to states with large and growing veteran populations, like California.

SUPPORTING VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

H.R. 2239 extends rehab benefits to service members who are hospitalized or receiving outpatient care, have a 10% active duty disability, and are likely to be discharged. For veterans living with disabilities, H.R. 1585 expands special compensation for combat-related disabled retirees who have served 15 years and have a 60 percent disability rating.

EXPANDING RESERVISTS' EDUCATION BENEFITS

Although Reservists are mobilized for an average of 18 months, they do not receive the same educational benefits as active duty service members. Loretta has co-sponsored the Total Force G.I. Bill (H.R. 1102) to match educational benefits for the National Guard and Reserve for their increased service to the nation. *(This legislation is pending committee approval.)*



Above: Loretta meets with volunteers at a USO event to discuss the need to provide care packages to soldiers stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan