



SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER FIGHTING FOR NEVADA'S BASES, TROOPS AND VETERANS



Senator Harry Reid has an established track record of fighting for Nevada's active duty, retired military personnel, and veterans. He has fought to provide our soldiers the equipment they need, while supporting them with the critical services they deserve upon returning home. Senator Reid has fought to increase funding for veterans health care programs and institute reforms within the VA system. In order to protect veterans from the rising cost of health care, Reid repeatedly opposed efforts by the Bush administration to increase TRICARE premiums. For veterans looking to complete their education, Congress expanded the Montgomery GI bill under Reid's leadership. For Nevada's veterans, Reid secured vital funding for the Southern Nevada Veterans Complex. The 700,000 square-foot center will include a 90-bed hospital and a 120-bed long-term care center.

Senator Reid Secured Vital Funding for All of Nevada's Military Installations. Over the course of his tenure, Senator Reid has secured millions for Nevada's troops, veterans, military families and installations. In fiscal year 2009 alone, Senator Reid worked to obtain over \$100 million for facilities and equipment for Nellis and Creech Air Force Bases. Over the past decade, Senator Reid ensured that funding was available for numerous range improvements and construction projects at Fallon Naval Air Station. Senator Reid also fought for the Nevada National Guard, securing funding to provide our men and women in uniform with the cutting edge technology necessary to protect Nevada. [Senate Vote 208, HR 2638, 09/27/08; Senate Vote 441, HR 2764, 12/18/07]

Senator Reid Fully Funded the Southern Nevada Veterans Complex, Making it a Reality. The 700,000 square-foot center will include a 90-bed hospital and 120-bed long-term care center. Senator Reid secured over \$600,000,000 for the project. The project is right on schedule to be opened in 2012. In the meantime four more Community-Based Outpatient Clinics are scheduled to be opened around the Las Vegas valley in the near future. [S. 3421, 12/22/2006, (P.L. 109-461)]

Senator Reid Successfully Prevented the Closure of the Hawthorne Army Depot. In 2005, Senator Reid worked to reverse Defense Department decisions to close the Hawthorne Army Depot and move the Nevada Air National Guard's C-130s during the Base

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S RECORD FOR OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS

- ★ Senator Reid Secured Vital Funding for All of Nevada's Military Installations
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Funding for the Southern Nevada Veterans Complex
- ★ Senator Reid Successfully Fought the Closure of the Hawthorne Army Depot
- ★ Senator Reid Has Repeatedly Voted to Increase Funding for Veterans' Health Benefits
- ★ Senator Reid Worked Tirelessly to Expand Care for Our Wounded Military Heroes
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill of Rights That Provided the Biggest Education Benefits Since World War II to Nevada's Troops
- ★ Senator Reid Fought to Provide Our Troops with the Protection and Tools They Need on the Battlefield
- ★ Senator Reid Fought to Provide America's Soldiers Adequate Dwell Time
- ★ Senator Reid Consistently Worked to Increase Pay and Expand Benefits for Our Servicemen and Women and Their Families
- ★ Senator Reid Championed Legislation to Ease the Hardship of Involuntary Mobilization for Members of the National Guard and Reserve

Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. Brigadier General Cynthia Kirkland, the adjutant general for Nevada directing the Nevada Army and Air National Guard, wrote in an opinion piece, *“Through the tremendous efforts of Nevada’s legislative delegation, especially Senator Harry Reid, community leaders and our supportive populace, the BRAC recommendations will not adversely impact Nevada in any way, despite the fact that the Hawthorne Army Depot was set to close and the Nevada Air Guard’s C-130 fleet was proposed to move to Arkansas when the initial BRAC list was revealed. We in the military in Nevada will forever be indebted to Senator Reid for his work in urging BRAC Chairman Anthony Principi and Commissioner Phillip Coyle to visit Nevada and see firsthand the necessity of retaining all military resources and assets in the Silver State.”* [Reno Gazette-Journal, 11/23/05]

Senator Reid Has Repeatedly Voted to Increase Funding for Veterans’ Health Benefits. Senator Reid has been a strong advocate for veterans in Nevada and around the country. During his time as leader, Senator Reid sought to increase funding for veterans’ health care programs on numerous occasions, given the increased need to assist troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2005, lawmakers learned the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was short \$1 billion for health care programs. That year, Senator Reid supported an additional \$1.5 billion for veterans’ health care. In 2006, he supported a spending bill that boosted veterans’ health programs by \$2.9 billion for fiscal year 2007. For fiscal year 2008, Senator Reid further augmented the budget for veterans’ health programs by over \$2 billion, bringing the total to \$37.2 billion. Though the Bush Administration was reluctant to fully fund veterans’ health benefits for fiscal year 2009, Senator Reid fought for \$41 billion for veterans’ health programs, \$4.1 billion more than the prior year, and \$1.8 billion more than the administration requested. Recently, Senator Reid ushered the *Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act* through Congress. Signed into law by President Obama on May 5, 2010, this bill will fulfill the VA’s obligation to the nation’s wounded veterans by providing their caregivers with training, counseling, support, and a living stipend. Moreover, it will expand veterans’ health services in rural areas, it will ensure that veterans who are catastrophically disabled or who need emergency care in the community are not inappropriately charged for those services, and it will improve veterans’ access to mental health care. [Senate Vote 168, HR 2361, 6/29/05; Passed By Voice, HR 5385, 11/14/06; Senate Vote 162, HR 2642, 6/26/08; Senate Vote 208, HR 2638, 9/27/08; Senate Vote 352, S. 1963, 11/19/2009 (P.L. 111-163)]

Senator Reid Worked Tirelessly to Expand Care for Our Wounded Military Heroes. Under Senator Reid’s leadership, the Senate passed the *Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act*, which established a comprehensive policy on the treatment and management of wounded warriors. The policy works to provide for a seamless transition for servicemen and women from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as from military service to civilian life, and to facilitate and improve wounded service members’ care and rehabilitation. Senator Reid’s efforts to ease the transition from the battlefield to recovery continued in the fiscal year 2008 Defense authorization bill. This legislation established a Wounded Warrior Resource Center for service members, required the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy on the care and management of service members, including the development of interoperable electronic health records, and most importantly, required a comprehensive policy to address traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, other mental health conditions, and military eye injuries. Since then, Senator Reid has supported annual legislation to fully fund these programs. He has also supported efforts to ensure that our military’s mental health care system has the resources and trained professionals to meet the mental health care needs of our service members, particularly those returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. Senator Reid voted to provide an additional \$900 million in emergency fiscal year 2007 funding for brain trauma injury (BTI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment and research. [Unanimous Consent, H.R. 1538, 7/25/07; Senate Vote 1, H.R. 4986, 1/22/08 (P.L. 110-181); Senate Vote 181, H.R. 2206, 5/24/07 (P.L. 110-28)]

Senator Reid Led the Passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill of Rights That Provided the Biggest Education Benefits Since World War II to Nevada's Troops.

In 2008, the Senate expanded the GI bill when it passed the supplemental appropriations bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill provides veterans with educational benefits that will cover the equivalent cost of the highest tuition rates of a public college or university in a veteran's home state, as well as a monthly housing stipend. Senator Reid played an integral role in the advancement of the GI bill at every step of the legislative process, from its inception in the fall of 2006 to its passage into law in June of 2008. Working in partnership with Senator Webb, Senator Reid helped develop a bipartisan coalition of key Senators to craft legislation that provides a true readjustment benefit for the veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, while also strengthening our all-volunteer force. As Majority Leader, Senator Reid made the GI bill a legislative priority, and worked to build strong bipartisan support and gain the backing of every major veterans service organization to move the bill forward and pass it into law, overcoming a veto threat from the Bush Administration as well as efforts by Congressional Republicans to pass a significantly watered-down version of the bill with far fewer benefits. [Senate Vote 137, H.R. 2642, 5/22/08 (P.L. 110-252)]

Senator Reid Fought to Provide Our Troops with the Protection and Tools They Need on the Battlefield.

Senator Reid has consistently made the protection of our troops the first priority of our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the fiscal year 2003 Iraq supplemental appropriations bill, Senator Reid voted to provide more funds for Humvees, body armor, and explosive jammers to safeguard our troops on the ground in Iraq. The following year, Reid backed an amendment to shift \$322 million in emergency appropriations from Iraq reconstruction to provide safety equipment for U.S. troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Though U.S. Army commanders warned that this additional funding was necessary to provide critical gear for our deployed soldiers, the Republican majority blocked this measure. Later that year, Senator Reid was able to help advance an initiative to require the Defense Department to reimburse service members for the cost of any protective, safety, or health equipment purchased by them or their families. [Voice Vote, H.R. 3289, 11/3/03 (P.L. 108-106); Senate Vote 376, S. 1689, 10/2/03; Senate Vote 112, S. 2400, 6/14/04 (P.L. 108-375)]

As Majority Leader, Senator Reid has continued this fight. He has consistently worked to advance initiatives to better protect our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan from the threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including measures to provide needed funds for up-armored Humvees (known as Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles or MRAPs). Under Senator Reid's leadership, the Senate added more than \$1.2 billion in emergency fiscal year 2007 funds, over \$17 billion in fiscal year 2008 funding, and an additional \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2010 funding for MRAPs, body armor, and other protective equipment for our military forces and Special Operations Command on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan. [Unanimous Consent, H.R. 4200, 10/9/04 (P.L. 108-375); Senate Vote 117, H.R. 1268, 5/10/05 (P.L. 109-13); Senate Vote 327, H.R. 2647, 10/22/09 (P.L. 111-84)]

Senator Reid Fought to Provide America's Soldiers Adequate Dwell Time.

In a 2007 speech, Senator Reid advocated for the passage of a dwell time amendment by Virginia Senator Jim Webb, "The Webb amendment is simple: It states that if a member of the active military is deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, they are entitled to the same length of time back home before they can be redeployed. It also states that members of the Reserves may not be redeployed within three years of their original deployment – which will not only give them time to recover from deployment, but will restore our reserve forces ability and availability to respond to emergencies here at home." Though the amendment received 56 votes, it was ultimately blocked due to Republican obstructionism. [Remarks by Senator Reid, 9/19/07; H.R. 1585, Senate Vote 241, 7/11/07; H.R. 1585, Senate Vote 241, 9/19/07]

Senator Reid Consistently Worked to Increase Pay and Expand Benefits for Our Servicemen and Women and Their Families.

Senator Reid fought for pay raises for our servicemen and women, worked to extend health care coverage, and improved benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families.

Senator Reid also fought to provide increased benefits, expand compensation, and improve the quality of life for our military personnel and their families.

- ***Senator Reid Consistently Worked to Secure Pay Increases for Our Servicemen and Women.*** Senator Reid has supported yearly measures to provide pay raises for members of our Armed Services. Under Reid's leadership, the Senate provided a 3.5 percent pay increase for all uniformed personnel for fiscal year 2008; a 3.9 percent across-the-board pay increase for fiscal year 2009; and a 3.4 percent pay raise for fiscal year 2010. [Senate Vote 1, H.R. 4986, 1/22/08 (P.L. 110-181); Unanimous Consent, S. 3001, 9/27/08 (P.L. 110-417); Senate Vote 327, H.R. 2647, 10/22/09 (P.L. 111-84)]
- ***Senator Reid Worked to Extend Health Care Coverage and Improve Benefits for Members of the National Guard and Reserve and Their Families.*** In recognition of their critical national security mission and unprecedented role in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Senator Reid repeatedly supported measures for expanding health care access to reservists and their families. Against Republican opposition, Senator Reid helped advance a bill in 2004 to extend the military's TRICARE health coverage to activated military reservists and their families during active duty, mobilization, and transition back to civilian life. In 2006, Reid voted to expand eligibility for TRICARE to all members of the Selected Reserve and their families. Senator Reid also supported a measure to reduce the eligibility age for reservists who served on active duty to receive retiree benefits. [Senate Vote 447, H.R. 1588, 11/12/03, (P.L. 108-136); Unanimous Consent, H.R. 4200, 10/9/04 (P.L. 108-375); Unanimous Consent, H.R. 5122, 9/30/06 (P.L. 109-364); Voice Vote, H.R. 1815 (P.L. 109-163)]
- ***Senator Reid Fought to Provide Increased Benefits, Expand Compensation and Improve the Quality of Life for Our Military Personnel and Their Families.*** In 2003, Senator Reid voted for legislation to provide five-year tax breaks to uniformed members of the armed services. The following year, Senator Reid fought to restore full military survivor benefits to the survivors of military retirees age 62 and older, effectively phasing out the widow's tax, over the previous administration's opposition. In 2007, Senator Reid sponsored a measure to allow veterans who have been rated 100 percent unemployable as a result of service-connected disabilities to draw concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans' disability compensation. Senator Reid also consistently fought against Bush Administration proposals for TRICARE fee increases. At the same time, Reid has worked to expand healthcare, education, housing, and other critical support services for military personnel and their families. [Senate Vote 110, H.R. 1307, 3/27/03; Senate Vote 447, H.R. 1588, 11/12/03, (P.L. 108-136); Senate Vote 1, H.R. 4986, 1/22/08 (P.L. 110-181), Senate Vote 348, H.R. 3082, 11/17/09]

Senator Reid Championed Legislation to Ease the Hardship of Involuntary Mobilization for Members of the National Guard and Reserve. In June 2009, Senator Reid introduced the Voluntary Support for Reservists and National Guard Members Act, which would give taxpayers the option of contributing a portion, or all, of their tax refund to the Reserve Income Replacement Program (RIRP) – which provides payments to involuntary active National Guard or Reserve members whose monthly active duty income is less than their monthly civilian income. Senator Reid is committed to moving this bill forward to help these service members and families make ends meet while they are deployed. [S. 1166, Introduced 06/03/09]

Carson City
600 East William St., Ste. 302
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-882-7343

Las Vegas
333 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Ste. 8016
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Phone: 702-388-5020

Reno
400 S. Virginia St., Ste. 902
Reno, NV 89501
Phone: 775-686-5750

Washington DC
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 1-866-SEN-REID