



SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER FIGHTING FOR OUR TROOPS



Senator Harry Reid has an established track record of fighting for the men and women of our Armed Forces. Senator Reid has championed initiatives to honor the service of our troops and worked to ensure that our forces have the resources and training they need to address the challenges we face at home and throughout the world. Senator Reid has made protecting and equipping our troops a top priority of our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has fought for increased compensation and benefits for our servicemen and women and their families, including pay raises, tax cuts, expanded health care, and other critical support services. Under Senator Reid's leadership, the Senate put in place a comprehensive plan to care for our wounded warriors, secured billions in additional funding for the military health care system and passed a new G.I. Bill for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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)]

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S RECORD FOR OUR TROOPS

- ★ 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 Fought to Provide Our Troops with the Protection and Tools They Need on the Battlefield
- ★ Senator Reid Consistently Worked to Increase Pay and Expand Benefits for Our Servicemen and Women and Their Families
- ★ Senator Reid Worked to Expand Housing for Members of the Military and Veterans
- ★ Senator Reid Fought for Responsible Deployment Cycles to Relieve the Strain on Our Armed Forces
- ★ 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 Worked Tirelessly to Expand Care for America's Wounded Warriors, Fix Shortfalls in Care at Walter Reed, and Improve Conditions at Defense Medical Facilities Across the Country
- ★ Senator Reid Championed Legislation to Ease the Hardship of Involuntary Mobilization for Members of the National Guard and Reserve

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 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 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 the 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)]

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 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 Worked to Expand Housing for Members of the Military and Veterans. For our dedicated military families, Senator Reid has made substantial efforts to relieve some of the unique financial and housing burdens that members of our Armed Services endure.

- ***Senator Reid Supported the Military Homeowner Assistance Program.*** Congress created the Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) under the Department of Defense in 1966 to compensate eligible military and civilian Federal employee homeowners when the real estate market declines as a result of base closures. Senator Reid led the way for the passage of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (Recovery Act), which included \$555 million to expand HAP to any individual who has received Permanent Change of Station (PSC) orders, or has incurred a service caused-condition during deployment that caused retirement due to disability, to further assist service members and surviving spouses weather the downturn in the housing market. Additionally, the *Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009* (H.R. 3548) exempted expanded Homeowner Assistance Program benefit payments from being taxed. [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA, P.L.111-5), Senate Vote 64, H.R. 1, 2/13/09]
- ***Senator Reid Directed Millions of Dollars to Nevada to Improve Military Housing.*** These funds include \$200,000 for transitional housing for veterans in Reno, More than \$5 million for family housing at Nellis Air Force Base and Fallon Naval Air Station, and \$250,000 for veteran housing in Sparks. [Veterans Affairs-HUD, FY1995, FY2002; Military Construction, FY2001, FY2003]

Senator Reid Fought for Responsible Deployment Cycles to Relieve the Strain on Our Armed Forces. The Army has been repeatedly forced to violate its own deployment policies to meet the previous Administration's demands for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under Senator Reid's leadership, the Senate called for the

establishment of minimum periods between deployments of units and members of the Armed Forces deployed for U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. By establishing responsible deployment cycles, the measure would have supported our troops and their families, worked to relieve the enormous stress on our ground forces and helped to address rising recruiting and retention challenges within our military. Though the amendment received 56 votes, it was ultimately blocked due to Republican obstructionism. [Senate Vote 341, H.R. 1585, 9/19/07]

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 Worked Tirelessly to Expand Care for America's Wounded Warriors, Fix Shortfalls in Care at Walter Reed, and Improve Conditions at Defense Medical Facilities Across the Country.*** Over the years, Senator Reid has worked tirelessly to expand care to our wounded military heroes. Senator Reid also led the fight to fix shortfalls in care at Walter Reed and improve conditions at defense medical facilities across the country.
- ***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 Helped Lead the Fight to Fix the Shortfalls in Care at Walter Reed and Improve Conditions at Defense Medical Facilities Across the Country.** Senator Reid has worked to provide our active-duty, reserve, and retired service members with the quality health care they deserve. He supported providing \$3 billion in fiscal year 2007 emergency funding for military health care – \$1.9 billion above the amount requested by the Bush Administration – to address shortfalls in care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and to make critical investments in military hospitals around the country. Senator Reid has also consistently backed efforts to bolster funding for the defense health program, supporting an additional \$918 million in fiscal year 2008 funding, an additional \$1.6 billion in fiscal year 2009, and an additional \$307 million in fiscal year 2010. [Unanimous Consent, H.R. 5122, 9/30/06 (P.L. 109-364); Voice Vote, H.R. 3222, 11/18/07 (P.L. 110-116); Senate Vote 327, H.R. 2647, 10/22/09 (P.L. 111-84)]

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]

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