

Summary of Accomplishments
Representative Clifford B. Stearns
District 06 Florida

MAJOR PIECES OF LEGISLATION PASSED

1. Working across the aisle with Democrats and Republicans, Representative Stearns managed passage of S. 2740 / H.R. 4237 *to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to deauthorize the Cross-Florida Barge Canal, and to assist the State of Florida in preservation of the canal corridor as a greenway*, which President Bush signed into law November 29, 1990.
2. Representative Stearns was instrumental in the passage of the "**Telecommunications Act of 1996**" which was signed into law January 3, 1996. He served on the Senate-House Confere Committee. This bill is *"to provide competition and reduce regulation in order to secure lower prices and higher quality service for American telecommunications consumers and encourage the rapid development of new telecommunications technologies."*
3. Representative Stearns was instrumental in the passage of H.R. 2116 *"to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of extended care services for veterans and to make other improvements in health care programs of the department of Veterans Affairs."* This Act, known as the "**Veterans' Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act,**" was signed by President Bill Clinton on March 10, 2000.
4. On November 13, 2000, President Clinton signed Representative Stearns' bill entitled the "**Cardiac Arrest Survival Act,**" *which prevents as many as 50,000 unnecessary deaths each year in the United States by broad deployment of AEDs (automated external defibrillators) among trained responders. The American Red Cross is a national leader in AED training, and has trained nearly 14,000 people to effectively use AEDs since the inception of our program in June 1999. For every minute that passes before a cardiac arrest victim is defibrillated, the change of survival falls by as much as 10 percent. This Act will help save lives.*
5. One of the highpoints for veterans and serving on the House Veterans Affairs Committee for 24 years was establishing a new cemetery in Jacksonville. The language

in Representative Stearns bill, H.R. 1516, was incorporated into the National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003, establishing a veterans' cemetery in Jacksonville. Representative Stearns had originally dropped this legislation, H.R. 3882, 10 years earlier before it was enacted and signed into law by President Bush.

6. Representative Stearns provided the bill signed by President Bush on August 30, 2004 *"to allow a preference regarding States that require schools to allow students to self-administer medication to treat that student's asthma or anaphylaxis, and for other purposes"*.

7. Representative Stearns was instrumental in the passage of the **"Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act"** *"to provide civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their produced by others."* This was signed on October 26, 2005 by President George Bush.

8. With bi-partisan support Representative Stearns was able to get President Clinton to sign his bill, H.R. 5109, which *"amended Title 38 of the United States Code to improve the personnel system of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes."*

9. Representative Stearns served as a member of the Air Force Congress with Sam Johnson who spent 6 ½ years as a POW at the Hanoi Hilton. While a member of the Air Force Caucus the Air Force Association presented to Congressman Stearns the **W. Stuart Symington Award**, which is the *highest honor presented to a civilian in the field of national security*.

DISTRICT FUNDING REQUESTS SUMMARY

1. Establishment of an out-patient clinic for Veterans in Leesburg and Ocala, Florida.

2. Instrumental in the building of a Veterans' hospital facility in western Marion County, part of The Villages, with ten acres of land donated by Gary Morris, the owner of The Villages.

3. Funding for a 235-bed facility for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Gainesville.
4. Numerous funding grants for infrastructure, including the beltway in Ocala and the beltway in Clay County.
5. Conversion of the Master Navy Jet Base Cecil Field into the Cecil Field Commerce Center with continuous appropriated funding to help transition the site into a commercial enterprise.
6. Further funding for the National Guard in Camp Blanding for the new Education Center as a result of the 9/11 tragedy and terrorist attack. Also helped National Guard in the relocation of the space program deposit of rocket fuel at Camp Blanding.
7. Federal funding for the building of a new prison in Sumter County and the funding for the intersection to allow transportation requirements to be met off of I-75.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. A recent bill which passed the Congress for the first time with Democrat support was H.R. 822, the **National Right to Carry Reciprocity Act**, to allow Americans to carry a concealed weapon if they have established their credentials from the state of their residency to other states.
2. Congressman Stearns worked with Rep. Ed Towns (D-NY) to craft H.R. 734, the **Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act of 2009**, which directed the Secretary of Transportation to set a noise level sufficient to alert blind and other pedestrians of the presence of operating motor vehicles. This legislation was signed into law on January 4, 2011 as S.841.
3. Representative Stearns introduced FAST, the "**Faster Access to Specialized Treatments Act**" (H.R. 4132), which rewrote Section 506 of the Food Drug & Cosmetics Act to modernize the accelerated approval pathway for rare disease drugs. FAST was included in the **FDA Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA), Rare Disease Bill**.