

# Nancy Johnson



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## **Johnson, Principi Pledge to Safeguard Veterans Benefits** *Congresswoman, Secretary Meet with Veterans in New Britain, Waterbury*

NEW BRITAIN, CT – Congresswoman Nancy L. Johnson and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi today pledged to continue safeguarding veterans benefits during a veterans town meeting in New Britain and a tour of Waterbury’s VA health clinic.

“Connecticut’s veterans have served our nation with courage and honor, and I will continue to fight to see they get the benefits they have earned,” Johnson said. “I commend Secretary Principi for his leadership and welcome him to Connecticut to meet with veterans and their families again.”

“I thank Congresswoman Johnson for giving me this opportunity to meet with Connecticut’s veterans and their families,” Principi said. “We have an obligation to uphold the promises made to our country’s veterans, especially during times of war.”

Johnson and Principi met with over 300 veterans at the New Britain VFW Post 511 this morning, offering remarks and answering their questions. Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, commanding officer of the Connecticut National Guard, was also present and applauded the VA health services National Guard troops are receiving.

Before the meeting, Johnson presented veteran Albert Cabana of Waterbury with overdue service medals he earned but never received, including the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal with Europe Clasp, and the National Defense Service Medal. Mr. Cabana, a Navy veteran, served in Europe during the Korean War.

Johnson and Principi then toured the VA Primary Care Clinic in Waterbury, where they met with veterans and staff.

This is the second time that Secretary Principi, the nation’s top veterans affairs official, has joined Congresswoman Johnson in Connecticut to discuss veterans issues. In 2002, Johnson invited Principi to Connecticut to demonstrate the importance of keeping the Newington VA facility open and serving the state’s veterans.

Johnson is a leading advocate for Connecticut veterans. She has supported a 40 percent increase in veterans health care funding since 2001. Johnson has enacted legislation cutting red tape that had prevented veterans’ families from obtaining a veterans grave marker, and she has reintroduced legislation allowing veterans to fill prescriptions written by private doctors at low cost VA pharmacies.

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