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Presorted Standard
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GINNY BROWN-WAITE

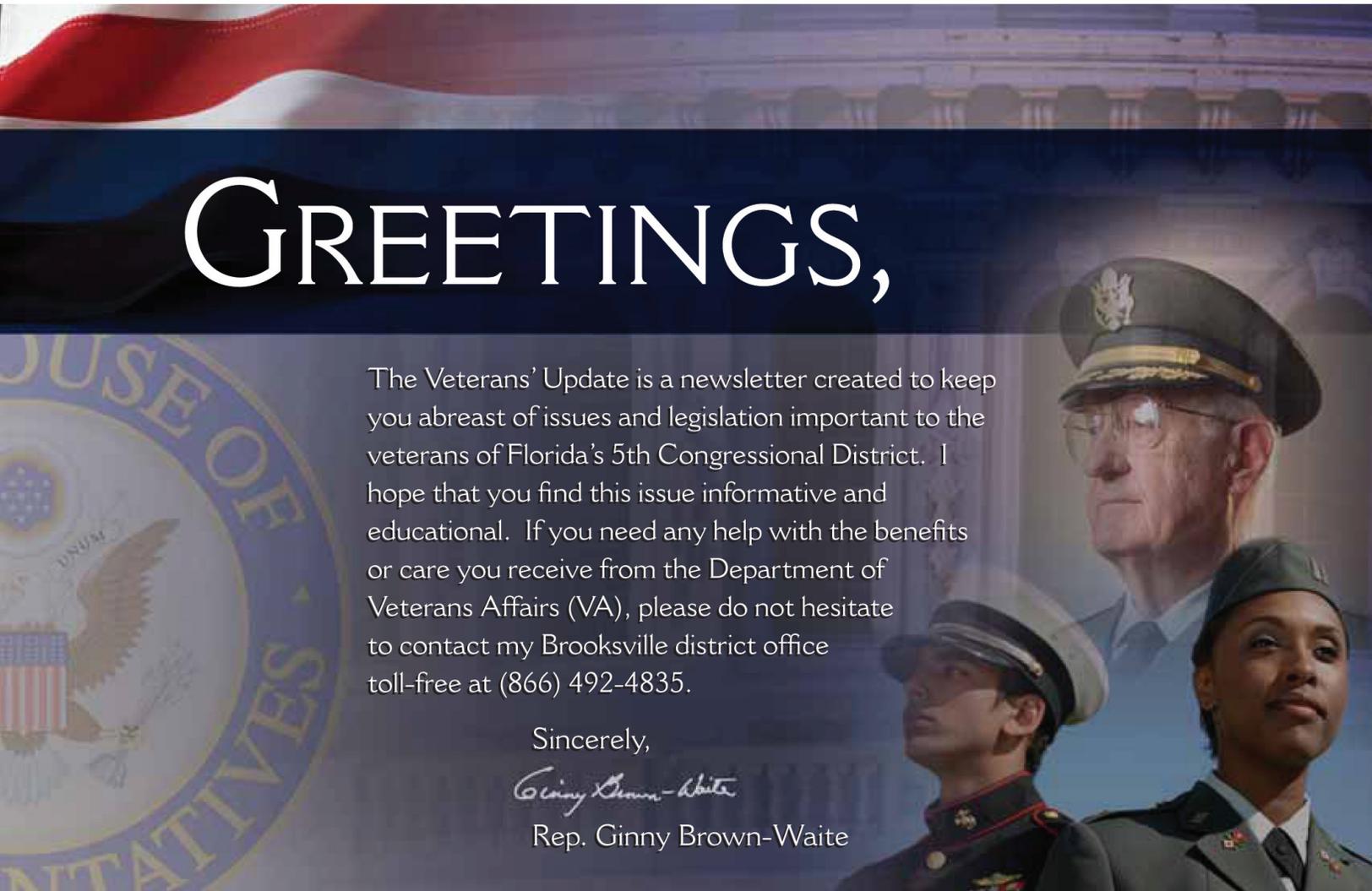
GREETINGS,

The Veterans' Update is a newsletter created to keep you abreast of issues and legislation important to the veterans of Florida's 5th Congressional District. I hope that you find this issue informative and educational. If you need any help with the benefits or care you receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), please do not hesitate to contact my Brooksville district office toll-free at (866) 492-4835.

Sincerely,

GINNY BROWN-WAITE

Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite





CONGRESSWOMAN

Ginny Brown-Waite

Veterans' Update

Your quarterly newsletter on Veterans' Issues from
Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite

KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATIVE COINS NOW AVAILABLE

Ginny has recently announced that a brand new commemorative coin honoring Korean War veterans is available through her office in Brooksville. Thousands of brave men and women served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the three years of the Korean War and today Ginny is working hand in hand with local veteran groups to identify the thousands of 5th District constituents who served in Korea and deserve recognition.



This year's 55th anniversary of the end of the Korean War is an opportunity for all Americans and all Floridians to reflect on the sacrifices of the thousands of brave soldiers who died defending freedom and opportunity in a faraway land. The Korean War saw more than 33,000 Americans give their lives for our country and for the sake of world peace. In addition to the brave heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice battling communism and oppression, more than 100,000 soldiers were wounded, and over 8,000 went missing in action.

As too many Florida families sadly know, nearly 600 soldiers from our great State died during the Korean War. They made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of life, liberty and freedom. While these brave men gave their lives in defense of freedom, thousands of others returned home to the United States. These are the men and women who Ginny has met throughout the 5th District and who will be eligible for the new Korean War Commemorative Coin.

To be eligible for the new coin you must have served in country in Korea from June 25, 1950 to December 31, 1953, received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Services, and provide a copy of your DD-214 to ensure eligibility. Please contact Ginny's Brooksville office for an application at (352) 799-8354 or toll free at (866) 492-4835.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY TO MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES

As veterans who have served our nation with honor and distinction, Ginny wanted to be sure that you had a copy of her Service Academy Nomination form and information about student eligibility for Congressional nomination. With thousands of military families living throughout the 5th District, veterans like you know many of the young men and women interested in serving in the United States military and who might want to attend one of the service academies. For full information about application deadlines, qualification standards and a copy of the application, please visit Ginny's



Ginny and Members of the U.S. Service Academies Discuss Efforts to Recruit More Young Men and Women into Military Service

website at <http://brown-waite.house.gov/ConstituentServices/serviceacademynominations.htm>. Please feel free to pass along this information to any young man or woman in the 5th District interested in serving our nation.

GINNY INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO FIX PROBLEMS WITH THE CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Most veterans are aware that the issue of concurrent receipt, where veterans could not receive full retirement and disability benefits at the same time, has been solved for many veterans. While more can be done to provide the full concurrent receipt for all veterans, there is another group of disabled veterans whose concurrent receipt problem was not fixed. Ginny has introduced legislation; H.R. 5621, to solve this problem for certain disabled veterans who chose to separate from the military prior to their retirement date.

During the 1990s, the U.S. Armed Forces went through a period of downsizing. Many servicemembers with between six and twenty years of service were offered and accepted a Voluntary Separation Incentive through the Temporary Early Retirement Authority. While these servicemembers receive generous benefits for taking the Incentive, those benefits are not considered retirement pay. As such, those veterans with service connected disabilities who took the Incentive are not entitled to receive concurrent receipt of their separation and disability benefits.

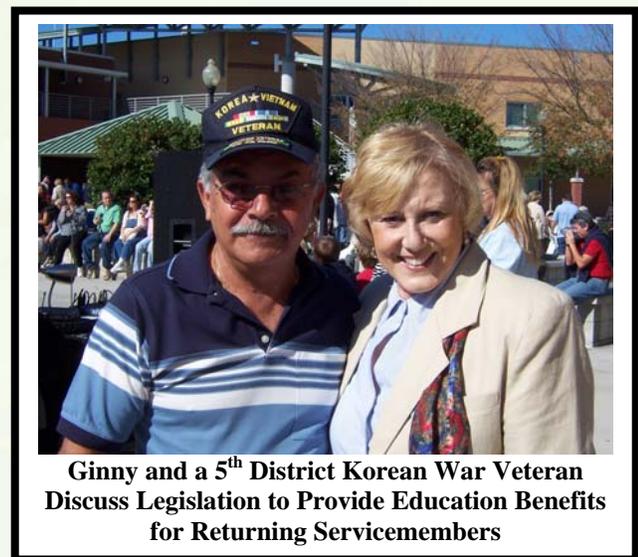
As the Ranking Member on the Oversight and Investigations Committee, Ginny felt this disparity was not fair to the thousands of veterans eligible for concurrent receipt but who could not receive the benefit because of this discrepancy in the law. That is why she introduced H.R. 5621 in March, 2008. No disabled veteran should be denied the benefits they earned through years of service to our nation. If you would like more information about this legislation, please contact Ginny's Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-1002.

GINNY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL VETERAN FAIRS IN HERNANDO AND SUMTER COUNTIES

Ginny recently hosted her annual veteran benefit resource fairs in Brooksville and The Villages. These innovative fairs featured representatives from local and national veteran agencies and provided information and assistance, including: veterans claims services, education benefits, employment services, housing/social services and medical/dental services.

Providing 5th District veterans with one-stop shopping for all their benefit needs was one of the main reasons Ginny hosted these resource fairs. Area residents, whether they are veterans, family or just someone interested in learning about the array of services available to veterans, traveled from every corner of the District's eight counties to receive information about resources available to veterans and their families.

The veteran resource fairs featured officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs, local VSO officers and members of Ginny's staff, all in one place to support America's heroes. As a leading advocate for veterans, Ginny wanted to ensure all 5th District veterans had information about claims services, education, employment and housing resources, as well as medical and dental benefits. She looks forward to hosting these fairs for veterans and their families again next year.



Ginny and a 5th District Korean War Veteran Discuss Legislation to Provide Education Benefits for Returning Servicemembers

NEW EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR RESERVE AND GUARD MEMBERS

With the second most veterans of any Member of Congress, Ginny has worked long and hard as a senior member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee to deliver the greatest amount of educational benefits possible for our nation's veterans.

As such, she supported legislation in the recent National Defense Authorization Act that increased VA educational benefits for some members of the National Guard and the Reserves who serve on active duty.

Under new provisions, members who accumulate three years on active duty, regardless of interruptions in service, may be eligible for the maximum payment under the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP). Previously, Guard and Reserve members must have served two continuous years on active duty to receive the highest payment. The new eligibility rules are retroactive to October, 1, 2007. The top payment under REAP is currently \$880.80 per month.

The new law, part of the National Defense Authorization Act, also expands the period of eligibility for certain Guard and Reserve members who complete their service obligation before separation from the selected reserve. Members meeting these criteria may be eligible to use REAP benefits for a period of ten years following discharge. Benefits typically end upon separation for members who do not complete their full, obligated service.

Members of the National Guard and Reserves have volunteered to serve our nation to advance the cause of freedom and democracy around the world. They deserve the best care possible, including education benefits, when they return to civilian life. Ginny will continue her efforts in Congress to see that Guard and Reserve members receive the benefits they deserve.

GINNY MEETS WITH MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART DELEGATION

Earlier this year Ginny met with the Florida delegation of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). The delegation was led by Florida State Commander James G. Holland III, and accompanied by Legislative Director, John E. Bircher III. Ginny also had the privilege to meet the new Commander of the Department of the Caribbean, Jose L.

Rivera of Puerto Rico. She listened to the delegation's support for pending legislation that affects the lives of all veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, especially those living in the State of Florida.

As one of our foremost veteran organizations, the Military Order of the Purple Heart performs great advocacy on behalf of combat wounded veterans. Ginny was honored to meet with the distinguished Florida delegation, especially to hear the strong words of support for her work on behalf of veterans from the new MOPH Commander of the Department of the Caribbean, Jose Rivera.

The MOPH is composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients who were wounded in combat and is therefore a unique Military Veteran Service Organization. Chartered by Congress in 1958, the MOPH consists of about 40,000 combat wounded veterans from all wars whose purpose is to promote history, education, fraternity, patriotism, and service to our wonderful country. Among its many services, the MOPH provides comfort and support to returning Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans and their families.

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<http://brown-waite.house.gov>**

Also, be sure to sign up on my Congressional Web site to receive my weekly e-newsletter. All you need to do is submit your name and e-mail address to receive it each Friday.



Ginny and Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Discuss Legislation to Expand Benefits for Soldiers Wounded in Combat