

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

FEB 27 2009

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 11, 2009

The Honorable John Hall
United States House of Representatives
1217 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hall:

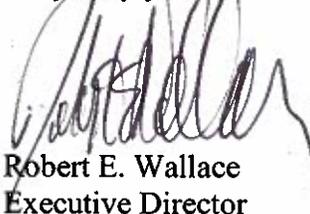
On behalf of the 2.3 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliaries, I would like to offer our support for your bill, *the Compensation Owed for Mental Health Based on Activities in Theater Act* to grant a presumptive service connection to veterans who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and have actively served in a designated theater of combat. This will relieve the burden faced by many veterans who are forced to prove the events they faced while serving our Nation are the direct cause of their PTSD.

This important legislation will make it possible and much easier for many veterans to start the important treatment necessary for their successful reintegration into civilian life. Too many veterans face additional obstacles in recovery when forced to prove their PTSD is indeed related to combat events experienced during their service, thus further delaying the healing process. Your legislation will establish a presumptive service connection for PTSD and guarantee that veterans receive the necessary medical attention promptly and with as little additional stress as possible.

Congressman Hall, this legislation is a great opportunity to honor and give back to those who have so honorably served this country. Thank you for concentrating on changes that can make a difference in the lives of our veterans. The VFW commends you, and we look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Thank you for your continued support for America's veterans.

Very truly yours,



Robert E. Wallace
Executive Director

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