

President George Washington once said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of early wars were treated and appreciated by our nation."

As an Army veteran and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Congressman Rooney is dedicated to ensuring our service members and veterans receive the benefits they have earned and deserve.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 37% of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have mental health problems, a nearly 50% increase from the last time the prevalence was calculated. This report, coupled with the recent rise in suicide rates by members of our armed services, is alarming and requires immediate action.

Congressman Rooney has been a tireless advocate bringing awareness to the growing number of troops and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, and other invisible wounds. Shortly after coming to Congress, Rooney introduced a bill to require troops returning from deployment to receive face-to-face, confidential screenings with mental health professionals. He worked with fellow House Armed Services Committee members and members of the Appropriations Committee to have that language written into law. He also worked to increase funding for mental health services and treatment, and to expand access to licensed mental health professionals for Tricare beneficiaries.

Congressman Rooney believes the number of homeless veterans in the United States is a national tragedy that must be addressed. He introduced the bipartisan "Helping Homeless Heroes Act," with fellow Florida Congressman Ted Deutch (FL-19), to expand and improve federal programs that have successfully reduced the number of homeless veterans nationally by more than half since 2003. Provisions of that bill were included in the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act of 2011, which was passed by Congress and signed into law.

Congressman Rooney firmly believes we have a moral obligation to care for those who were wounded while serving to protect our Country and continues to fight to protect that commitment. Providing the best benefits to our returning war fighters, their families and veterans is a top priority for Rooney.

If you are a veteran and you need assistance with you benefits, please [contact](#) our office or visit our Veterans Service webpage by clicking [here](#)

Latest Veterans News:

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[November 8, 2011 - Media Advisory: Rooney Veterans Day Events](#)

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[July 21, 2011 - Rooney Introduces Bill to Improve Security at VA Medical Centers](#)

[July 19, 2011 - Rooney Cosponsors Bill to Reduce Veteran Homelessness](#)

[May 27, 2011 - Rooney Statement Honoring Memorial Day](#)

[May 26, 2011 - MEDIA ADVISORY: Rooney Memorial Day Schedule](#)

March 31, 2011 - [Rooney Introduces Bill to Recognize Fort Pierce Navy SEAL Memorial as National SEAL Memorial](#)

January 21, 2011 - [ICYMI: Troops, Veterans Need Suicide-Prevention Help](#)

January 19, 2011 - [Rooney Continues Push for Improved Mental Health Services as Army Reports High Suicide Rates](#)

January 6, 2011 - [Rooney Introduces Bill to Improve Mental Health Services for Troops, Veterans](#)