



# Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

## Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



NOVEMBER 7, 2003

### Hot News!

#### McCollum Honors Our Veterans

We honor veterans this month as Americans serving around the world continue to be under attack in Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan and other places around the world. They represent our country with integrity and dignity and deserve our prayers to return home safely.

Congress should be doing everything possible to assist our injured and disabled service men and women. Sadly, this is not the case.

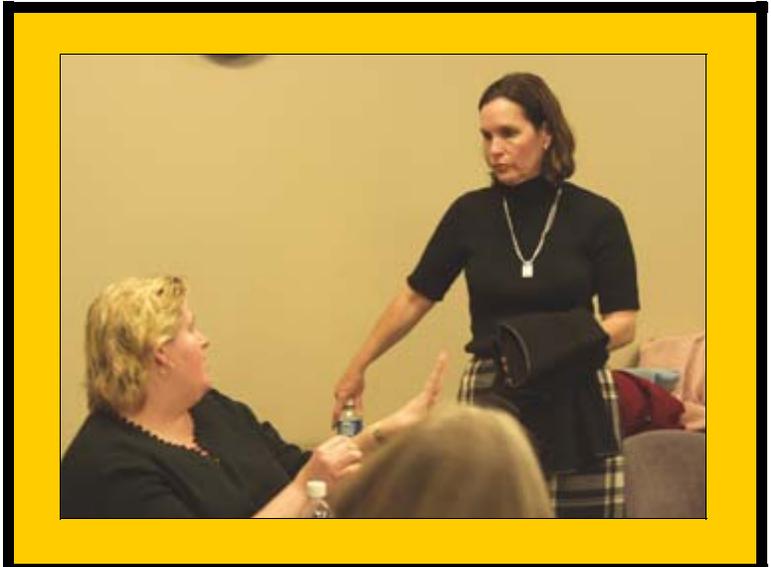
Currently, our veterans who retire after a full military career are entitled to a pension. Those disabled while serving are also entitled to receive compensation for their disability. But as veterans are well aware, their military retirement pension is reduced a dollar for every dollar of disability pay they receive. 3,800 Minnesota veterans lose retirement benefits because of the Disabled Veterans Tax. This system hurts America's disabled military retirees that have given so much for our nation.

Congressional leaders disagree. A deal was cut to provide some disabled veterans only half of their deserved retirement - while many continue to receive no help. Many in Congress are fighting to force a vote to grant full retirement and disability pay for years, a commitment to our veterans we have neglected.

Americans agree that the disability penalty is an injustice to our veterans. Can we morally say that we have enough money to cut taxes for the wealthiest one percent, but not eliminate this tax on our disabled veterans?

Another way I will continue to support our veteran's is by working to restore the \$1.8 billion in veterans health benefit cut from the budget. Our veterans would benefit from an expansion of a number of job training, higher education, and housing programs that will address the needs of returning service men and women.

America's veterans were there for us when called to duty. It is our turn to honor this commitment to our veterans for their hard work and dedication to this country.



Rep. Betty McCollum discussed her recent trip to the Middle East with students, faculty and community members at the College of St. Catherine this week. McCollum traveled to Iraq, Jordan and Turkey as a part of a bipartisan delegation of House International Relations members. The group assessed the status of security, political transition and U.S. reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

### The Week Ahead

Rep. Betty McCollum will visit Carver Elementary School students this Veterans Day, **Tuesday, November 11, 2003**. She will join the North Saint Paul VFW Color Guard and the students to discuss the importance of honoring our nation's veterans.

Following the visit at Carver Elementary, McCollum and the VFW Color Guard will visit Gladstone Community Center's Senior Program and help serve lunch to senior citizens at the community center.

**The House will be in session Wednesday November 12 - Friday November 15, 2003.**

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . [www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html](http://www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html)

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