



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2009

CONTACT: Rep. Franco Coladipietro
(630) 582-0045
Rep. Dennis Reboletti
(630) 530-2730
Rep. Randy Ramey
(630) 876-0703

Protecting Those Who Protect Us

House Republicans Unveil Legislative Package Which Provides Tax Credits, Property Tax Relief and Small Business Loans for Veterans

Springfield ... State Representative Franco Coladipietro (R-Bloomington), State Representative Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst) and State Representative Randy Ramey (R-West Chicago) were joined by area veterans to unveil the House Republican legislative package which includes tax credits, property tax relief and small business loans for veterans.

Citing the additional expense of child care service when a spouse is called to active duty, Rep. Coladipietro initiated legislation which would provide a \$1,000 tax credit to deployed military families for child care and dependent services.

“When a spouse is called to serve our country, it unfortunately places an additional burden on the family at home to find child care services during the work day. By providing a tax credit to these families, we can at least begin to financially unburden these families with the extra expenses picked up with a family member overseas,” said Rep. Coladipietro.

Rep. Reboletti added that legislation which he is sponsoring includes authorizing DCEO loans for veterans starting small businesses. This program is similar to the loans that individuals receive through the Minority, Women and Disabled Participation Loan Program.

“My father along with thousands of other veterans in this state has proudly served their country in times of peace and war. It is vital that we give back to these individuals and provide them with opportunities afforded to other groups in our state,” said Rep. Reboletti. “Small business is the backbone of our state’s economy, and it’s important that the state continue to provide loans to keep the private sector active. I feel that veterans are more than deserving to be included in on current state programs, which provides loans to minorities, women and disabled individuals.”

Rep. Ramey added that an additional part of the legislative package includes property tax relief for disabled veterans.

“When a disabled veteran returns to civilian life, there are many financial and physical challenges they face. Property tax relief is one avenue to allow these returning veterans to live independently and affordably. Not to mention, it’s the least we can do for their service and sacrifice,” said Rep. Ramey.

Additional provisions of the legislative package include:

- With veterans waiting months or even years to enter a state veteran’s nursing home, House Republicans sponsored legislation which would provide a state subsidy for veterans on these waiting lists to enter the care of a private nursing facility.
- As the next generation of veterans move up in age, it’s vital that the state provide a new veteran’s home to keep up with this population. House Republicans sponsored legislation to build one of these facilities in the suburban area of northern Illinois, making 200 new beds available to our returning heroes.
- While most Americans believe our nation’s veterans are well-supported, in fact many go without the services they require and are eligible to receive. Legislation sponsored by the House Republicans would include grants for community based mobile crisis teams to give screening and access to intervention services for homeless and troubled veterans.

“All I can say to these representatives is “thank you”. I’m happy that my representative, Franco Coladipietro, along with these other representatives cares enough about veterans affairs to take the time and sponsor such important legislation. I’m glad that the veterans are finally getting the attention they need,” said Gabe Morales, Junior Vice Commander – Glendale Heights VFW 2377.

For additional questions, please contact Coladipietro’s office at (630) 582-0045.

###