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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 earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation."

Right now, more than 1.1 million active duty servicemen are defending our nation. An additional 25 million military retirees and veterans are living in this nation, many who dedicated their entire professional and personal lives to protect our freedoms.

In his Fiscal Year 2012 budget proposal, President Barack Obama included significant cuts to TRICARE, which would result in a fee increase for working-age veterans. At a time when our military and their families face multiple deployments while struggling through a weak economy, now is not the time to raise revenue on the backs of the brave men and women of our armed forces.

In contrast, I proposed a bill that would instead increase the benefits to our service members, regardless of what type of battle they are fighting and where that battlefield is located. Click [here](#) for details on the [Global Combat Zone Recognition Act](#)

As the son of a WWII Army veteran, the brother of a Vietnam Marine veteran, the uncle of a current Army combat veteran, and as a 22 year combat veteran of the United States Army, I will

always keep my fellow brothers and sisters in arms in mind each and every day I serve on Capitol Hill.