

CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY

A Victory for Veterans & the New York National Guard



Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Neighbor:

As we begin 2006, I wanted to take the opportunity to let you know about an important victory that I have been working toward for members of the New York National Guard who served our city and state in those horrifying days following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

In April 2004, I met with the members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Division of the New York Army National Guard, headquartered at the Lexington Avenue Armory in my congressional district, who were scheduled to be shipped out to Iraq the following month. During this visit I learned that many of them served at Ground Zero and in the surrounding counties after the terrorist attacks for almost a year to assist with security, reconstruction, and recovery efforts. These soldiers served under state duty rather than federal duty. As a result, they did not receive federal retirement credit for more than 300 days of service between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2002. However, other Companies in the 1st Battalion were activated under federal duty and served at West Point for a similar length of time to help with its security. Clearly, all National Guard troops who served during this unprecedented national emergency deserved equal status, especially those who served in the most dangerous zones around Ground Zero.

Along with Congressman Peter King and other members of the New York delegation, I introduced important legislation to make these soldiers eligible to earn federal military retirement credit. Unfortunately, our efforts to attach this bill to the FY05 National Defense Authorization Act were unsuccessful.

On May 19, 2005, we reintroduced this important legislation to ensure that the members of the National Guard who served in the counties declared federal disaster areas in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and who served under state duty so that they could immediately assist in the response, would have that service counted as federal duty for their military retirement credit. With the help of Congressman John McHugh and Senator Clinton and over objections raised by the Department of Defense, this legislation was included in both the House-passed version and the final conference report to the FY06 National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law by the President on January 6, 2006.

For their service in New York and at the Pentagon after 9/11, National Guard soldiers, many of whom are also serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, deserve nothing less than fair military retirement credit. I am pleased that we have corrected this inequity.

As the 109th Congress progresses, I will continue to fight to ensure that veterans receive appropriate health care, housing, education, and training. The men and women who risked their lives for our country deserve the best our nation can offer.

Please contact my office if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn B. Maloney".

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

P.S. If you would like to receive email updates about news and issues affecting New York and the nation, please fill out the form on the back of this letter, or visit my website at www.house.gov/maloney to sign up.



Official Business

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3214

PRSRRT-STD
M.C.

Useful Contacts for Veterans and Dependents

It's sometimes hard to find the right place to call to solve a specific problem.

If the numbers below don't solve your problem, please contact one of my offices for additional help!

VA Benefits.....1-800-827-1000	Headstones and Markers.....1-800-697-6947
Health Benefits1-877-222-8387	Special Health Issues: Gulf War, Agent Orange, Project 112/Shad1-800-749-8387
Education Benefits1-888-442-4551	Queens Veteran Counseling.....1-718-296-2871
Life Insurance1-800-669-8477	VA NY Harbor Health Care.....1-212-686-7500
Debt Management1-800-827-0648	Health Eligibility Center 2957 Clairmont Rd. #200.....1-404-235-1257
Mammography Hotline1-888-492-7844	Atlanta GA 30329or 1-800-929-8387
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)1-800-829-4833	
CHAMPVA.....1-800-733-8387	

Problem or Solution, I Want to Hear from You!

As your representative in Congress, it's important to me to ensure that federal agencies are appropriately responsive to your needs. If you've applied for a federal benefit and believe your application is not being processed properly, or if you are having any other problems with a federal agency, my district staff may be able to help. Please don't hesitate to call or write me or my staff to ask for assistance. If you'd like to visit with a staff member, it's always best to call first for an appointment.

Here's how to reach me. ➡️

I'm also always interested in any suggestions and recommendations you may have regarding legislation. Many of my best initiatives originate with ideas brought to me by constituents!

Manhattan
1651 Third Ave., Suite 311
New York, NY 10128
212/860-0606

Queens
28-11 Astoria Blvd.,
Astoria, NY 11102
718/932-1804

Washington, D.C
2331 Rayburn HOB,
Washington, D.C. 20515
202/225-7944



Get news by email! I've started an email newsletter to constituents who would be interested in receiving them. Please complete this form and mail it to my Manhattan office, or log on to www.house.gov/maloney to sign up.

Name Email

Address

Return to Congresswoman Maloney, 1651 Third Avenue, Suite 311, New York, NY 10128

By signing up you are authorizing me to send regular email updates to the email account you provide.

