



## ***Honoring the Service of our Nation's Military and Veterans***

Senator John Cornyn learned the value of patriotic service to our country from his father, who spent 31 years in the military, beginning as a B-17 pilot in World War II. Growing up in an Air Force family and moving from base to base, he saw first-hand the caliber of those who dedicate years to defending freedom at home and abroad.

Senator Cornyn knows that our nation can never do enough to repay those who have selflessly served and sacrificed for our country. He is dedicated to making certain that our nation's active duty, National Guard and Reserve military forces get the best training and equipment, and that our veterans receive the health care access, services, and benefits they so rightly deserve.

**Over the past four years, Senator Cornyn has established a strong record on veterans issues and supporting our military personnel.**

- ✓ Voted to authorize **concurrent receipt** of military retirement benefits and VA disability compensation for retirees with at least a 50% disability. Worked to allow the **immediate payment of concurrent receipt for the most severely disabled veterans.**
- ✓ Supported the **elimination of the "Widow's Tax"** that reduced the Survivor Benefit Plan for widows at age 62.
- ✓ Supported the **America's Fallen Heroes Act** prohibiting demonstrations at military funerals held at national cemeteries, preserving the dignity of our soldiers.
- ✓ Supported **expanding the eligibility for TRICARE** to all members of the Selected Reserve.



- ✓ Helped **expand Combat Related Special Compensation** to all military retirees whose disabling condition was due to combat or combat related operations.
- ✓ **Increased the maximum coverage of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance** from \$250,000 to \$400,000 and increased the DoD-provided death gratuity from \$12,420 to \$100,000.



- ✓ Worked to **secure pay raises** and **increased benefits** for military personnel.
- ✓ Cosponsored the **Military Citizenship Act** expediting the naturalization process for men and women serving in the U.S. military who are not U.S. citizens.
- ✓ Supported **authorizing the construction of six new national cemeteries** and made permanent the **State Cemetery Grants Program**, which assists states in establishing veteran's cemeteries.

Senator Cornyn helped dramatically **increase VA health care funding by 34%** and **VA mental health funding by 27%** during the past four years.

- ✓ Supported **increasing the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational** allowance by 34% and **expanding the GI Bill** eligibility to include self-employment and entrepreneurship courses, making sure our veterans and their families are afforded every opportunity to gain a quality education.

- ✓ Voted to support a **Constitutional amendment prohibiting the desecration of our most revered national symbol, the American flag.**

**Senator Cornyn continues to work in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to support veterans.**

- ✓ Sponsoring the **Veterans' Housing Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007** to ensure that soldiers with severe burns and other traumatic injuries are eligible to receive the same benefits for housing and automobile adaptation grants as other disabled veterans.

✓ Cosponsoring the **Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act**:

- Requires development of a policy for the individual care of injured service members during their transition from the military to VA or civilian life, to ensure that no service member is neglected.
- Develops a uniform, joint electronic health record for use between the VA and the DoD, to provide a seamless transition to VA care.
- Provides enhanced health care to the injured service members, authorizing medically retired service members with a disability rating of 30% or higher to receive active duty health care benefits for 3 years.
- Strengthens and reforms the DoD Disability Evaluation System, providing improved benefits.
- Requires the DoD to establish centers of excellence for Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Authorizes \$50M for improved diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation for afflicted service members.
- Increases severance pay for service members separated with less than 30% disability.



✓ Cosponsoring the **Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act** authorizing the VA to pay travel expenses for veterans who need to travel VA facilities. This act would enhance the ability of veterans to get the treatment they require when living outside of large cities and away from VA facilities.

✓ Cosponsoring the **Veterans' Mental Health Outreach and Access Act** to

require the VA to help Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans and their families, including National Guard and Reservists, gain access to mental health care and readjustment services, especially for those who do not live near a VA facility.

Senator Cornyn is a member of the Senate's **Army Caucus, Air Force Caucus, Reserve Caucus, and the National Guard Caucus.**

✓ Cosponsoring the **Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Rehabilitation Act** requiring the VA to develop personalized plans prior to discharge from inpatient care for the rehabilitation of veterans with TBI. This act directs the VA to work with non-VA facilities to provide veterans' TBI intervention, rehabilitative treatment, and reintegration services when a veteran is not close to a VA facility.