

VETERANS

The President's 2008 Budget increases funding for and expands the services provided to our veterans by:

- Expanding access to health care for veterans;
- Improving benefits for veterans and their families; and
- Ensuring an easy transition for veterans leaving the military.

Veterans have helped to shape the American character, and their service represents the highest form of patriotism. The President's Budget provides additional resources to build upon the significant benefit enhancements and modernization achieved since 2001.

Expanding access to health care for veterans:

- \$36.6 billion to provide medical care to America's veterans, an increase of 83 percent since the President took office in 2001.
- \$1.3 billion to provide veterans from all combat eras with more prosthetics and sensory aids.
- \$3 billion addresses the increased need for mental health care services for veterans.
- \$750 million for the construction of medical facilities located where veterans need them the most.

Improving benefits for veterans and their families:

- \$37 billion in tax free disability benefits for veterans and their beneficiaries and increased administrative funding to reduce the processing time of veteran's claims so they can receive benefits more quickly.
- National Cemetery Expansion Act: Establish six new national cemeteries to advance the President's goal of ensuring most veterans have a final resting place within 75 miles of their home. The Greatest Generation of Americans who served our Nation in WWII and the Korean conflict deserve a hallowed resting place.

Ensuring an easy transition for veterans leaving military service:

- Veterans Affairs outreach programs will ensure that returning combat veterans access care quickly and with minimal paperwork.
- Decreasing the time it takes for the Defense Department to provide Veterans Affairs with a servicemember's deactivation and separation data. This lessens the burden on a veteran for providing this information and will allow them to receive benefits and services more quickly.