



WHEREAS Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States deserve our honor and respect for standing as the tip of the spear, protecting us from the countless threats in our uncertain world. This heroic pursuit is not for money or glory, but a selfless love of freedom and a desire to prevent tyranny; and

WHEREAS Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States have gone without question, leaving their homes, their families and their communities in our service and it is the least we can do to ensure that their sacrifice is never forgotten; and

WHEREAS Veterans of the Armed Forces were ordered by their elected officials into harm's way to defend this great nation and, as they serve us, it is up to us to serve them upon their return.

NOW THEREFORE I, Allen Chesser, pledge that, as Congressman for North Carolina's Second Congressional District, I will do everything in my power to serve my fellow Veterans of the District, the State of North Carolina and the United States of America.

In keeping with that commitment, I specifically pledge to:

1. Conduct "Sounding Sessions" with small groups of Veterans focusing on Combat Veterans, to include Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and other combat deployments, to further identify and understand Veterans issues with the VA and the DOD.
2. Encourage businesses to institute a Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program within their business to find and hire at least one Wounded Veteran who is qualified for the position and, as an example, I have already instituted this policy within my campaign.
3. Reserve no less than two positions, one in my district office, and one in Washington, specifically for Wounded Warriors through the CAO Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program.
4. Support amending the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act to include reasonable medical appointments, so our Veterans don't fear losing their jobs by going to a doctor's appointment for injuries suffered in the service of this country.
5. Provide additional oversight to hold the VA responsible for the care and benefits with which Congress has tasked them.
6. Support requiring all records for Disability claims be digitized so that we no longer see warehouses full of paper records waiting for a decision by VA Regional Offices.
7. Advocate for providing Mental Health and Substance Abuse treatment to any Veterans with a character of service higher than a Dishonorable Discharge.
8. Complete an analysis of Homeless Veterans programs in the state of North Carolina to ensure these programs are effective at reducing Veteran Homelessness. The single largest cause of Veteran Homelessness is Substance Abuse and untreated Mental Health Issues and, while this is not the only cause for Veteran homelessness, it is the most common. I find it unconscionable that, tonight, there will be Veterans sleeping under an overpass in this great nation.
9. Encourage the States to pass Veterans Courts Legislation to ensure those Veterans who need help with issues such as homelessness, mental health and addiction are helped rather than incarcerated; perpetuating the problem.
10. Prioritize treatment over prosecution for minor non-violent crimes that are discovered because a Veteran in crisis calls the Veteran Suicide Hotline.
11. Allow any Service Connected Veteran to use their VA ID to receive treatment at any medical facility that accepts Medicare or TriCare at the equivalent payment rates as the VA so they are no longer placed on a waiting list to receive treatment.

So it is that I, Allen Chesser pledge on this 11th day of November in the year 2017.

Gregory "Allen" Chesser II
Republican Candidate
NC-2nd Congressional District

11 NOV 2017

DATE