

May 22, 2009

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Can Visit Office, Meet with Rep. Luján, Sign Up for Benefits

Washington, DC – Rep. Ben Ray Luján will host an New GI Bill sign up on Memorial Day in his Santa Fe district office. Veterans and their families can visit the office and sign up for education benefits under the New GI Bill. May 1 was the first day that veterans can sign up for new college benefits under the new GI Bill for the 21st Century that take effect on August 1. Last year, Congress enacted the new GI Bill for the 21st Century to restore the promise of a full, four-year college education for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

“Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have an opportunity to receive significant education benefits under the new GI Bill,” said Rep. Luján. “I encourage Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to apply for this program on Memorial Day at my Santa Fe district office.”

WHAT: New GI Bill Benefits Sign Up and Meet and Greet with Rep. Ben Ray Luján

WHEN: Monday, May 25, 1:30-3:00 pm (MT) – Staff will be available in office from 8:00 am-5:00 pm

WHERE: Rep. Luján’s Santa Fe District Office, 811 St. Michael's Dr. Suite 104, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Members of the military--including activated reservists and members of the National Guard--who have been honorably discharged from service with at least 90 days of active duty service on or after September 11, 2001 could receive up to four academic years of education benefits. These benefits include stipends for housing and books, and are correlated on a sliding scale relative to years served. To receive full benefits you must have served on active duty for three

years. Veterans will have up to 15 years after they leave active duty to use their education benefits.

The new college benefit program will pay for:

- tuition and fees up to the maximum in-state tuition and fees at a public institution in your state;
- a monthly housing allowance at the location of the school, based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents; and
- an annual books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000.