

(Washington, DC) — U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today introduced a resolution to establish a Disabled American Veterans Week to honor America's heroes and draw attention to the unique challenges disabled veterans face.

There are currently more than 2.8 million disabled veterans in America. More than 30,000 veterans have become disabled during recent combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Many of the brave men and women who fought for our country sustained injuries that have forever changed their lives,” Altmire said. **“It is my hope that by establishing a Disabled American Veterans Week, we will increase people’s awareness of the struggles many of America’s heroes face everyday and prompt more individuals to find ways to honor and support our wounded warriors. America’s veterans have provided an invaluable service to our country and they deserve our unwavering support.”**

The Disabled American Veterans Week resolution has been endorsed by the Blinded Veterans Association, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“A week dedicated annually to each one of our nation’s disabled veterans will forever emphasize that Americans throughout this country owe all that we have to those that have stood in harms way,” Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director for the Disabled American Veterans, wrote in a letter to Congressman Altmire.

“On behalf of all those that have stood up to defend America, thank you for your truly honorable efforts to pay such deep respect to America’s disabled veterans.”

Congressman Altmire has quickly established himself as one of Congress’ strongest advocates for veterans. His leadership on guaranteeing bonuses for combat wounded veterans has garnered national attention, and three of his bills – to improve treatment for traumatic brain injuries at Veterans Administration (VA) facilities, expand small business development and loan programs for veterans and reservists, and assist the families of deployed guard and reserve members – have each been signed into law. Congressman Altmire also worked with his colleagues to provide a \$13 billion increase for the VA last year, which is the largest funding increase in VA history. This will help the agency keep pace with rising demands and improve health care for our nation’s veterans.

