



*Monroe County Legislature*

**HARRY B. BRONSON**  
DEMOCRATIC MINORITY LEADER

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Committee Assignment
<b>Memorializing Referral -L</b>

**HARRY B. BRONSON**  
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November 9, 2007

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
407 County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

**Re: Memorializing the U.S. Congress to Adopt and Implement the  
Recommendations Made by the Veterans' Disability Commission**

Honorable Legislators:

In 2004, the National Defense Authorization Act established the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, an independent, bipartisan body charged with studying the benefits and services intended to compensate and assist veterans and their survivors. Because of advances in technology and medicine, more lives are being saved on the battlefield and an increasing number of our troops are coming home with considerable physical and psychological wounds. Now more than ever it is critical that the government fulfill its obligation to provide veterans with appropriate compensation and benefits.

After a two-and-a-half-year study, the Veterans' Commission presented 113 recommendations to both the Pentagon and Veterans Affairs Department. An over 500-page report details substantial flaws in the present system, including charges of providing inadequate mental health care, inequitable disability payments, and "low-balling" veterans disability ratings to avoid benefit payment.

In its report the Veterans' Commission calls for a number of reforms. The recommendations include: awarding benefits to veterans with any service-related injury, regardless if it was incurred during combat or not; providing greater attention and treatment to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); increasing compensation rates by 25 percent; and shortening the 177-day waiting period for disability payments. The Commission has also called for the responsibility of assigning disability benefits to be shifted from the Pentagon to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Before we commit our brave troops to battle, it is imperative we ensure that we are able to support them when they return home. Therefore, we ask you to join us in urging the

We are pleased that Governor Spitzer has made Upstate New York's economy a top priority and we believe the City by City plan will bring needed economic vitality and leadership to Monroe County. Therefore, we urge you to join us in memorializing the New York State Senate and Assembly to support Governor Spitzer's City by City plan which will help bolster and strengthen our local economy.

Respectfully submitted,



Harry B. Bronson  
Democratic Minority Leader



Carrie M. Andrews  
Assistant Democratic Leader



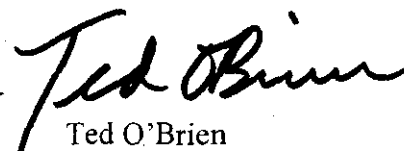
Calvin Lee, Jr.  
Assistant Democratic Leader



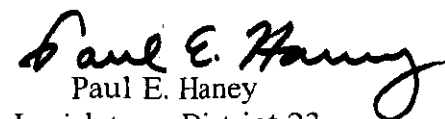
Travis R. Heider  
Legislator - District 14



Stephanie Polowe Aldersley  
Legislator - District 16



Ted O'Brien  
Legislator - District 17



Paul E. Haney  
Legislator - District 23



Stephen Eckel  
Legislator - District 26



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Legislator - District 27



Carla M. Palumbo  
Legislator - District 28