5-16-1997

Disabled American Veterans Convention

Max S. Baucus
Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

Instructions:
Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.
Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.
For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: Speeches & Remarks

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: May-1997
(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: Disabled American Veterans Convention in Butte
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* 6 Versions

DOCUMENT DATE*: 05/16/1997
(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"
Hello everyone. It is an honor to be speaking with you this morning. I hope this convention will be helpful and informative for all of you.

Memorial Day is right around the corner. And for too many Americans that holiday is simply a day off work.

I believe it should be a day to reflect on the sacrifices our veterans made for us. We called on them to serve. When their time came, they did not hesitate.

I think President Kennedy best summed up the spirit of our nation's veterans when he said: "A man does what he must -- in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures -- and that is the basis of all human morality."

Our veterans laid down their bodies and their lives so that we might have a better life in a free country. It is part of our moral obligation to make sure that we now care for them. And that is why you are at this convention today.

MAINTAINING VETS' HEALTH CARE

So how do we live up to this commitment to veterans? One important way is to make sure that health care for vets is the best we can provide.

I'm sure a lot of you have heard about the restructuring of the VA. And I know a lot of you are pretty concerned with what might happen to veterans' health care in Montana. Well so am I.

But there are some things we should keep in mind as the restructuring process goes forward. First, we have to realize that restructuring is going to happen. Changing demographics of veterans and our evolving health care make restructuring necessary.

But second, we need to remember that restructuring doesn't have to be bad for Montana veterans.

My philosophy toward restructuring is this: Montana vets deserve health care that is as good as, or better than, the service they now receive.

Achieving that philosophy can be done in many ways. In Miles City, when they wanted to close down the surgery center, I insisted
that the VA pay for vets to get care at either Holy Rosary or some other VA hospital. And the vets get to decide where they go -- that was important. In the end, VA agreed with me.

This is how restructuring in Montana will be done -- on a case by case basis. I intend to watch this process closely. I will listen to vets. Then I will make sure they get the services they need.

And as this process goes forward, I will be looking to people like you: community leaders, advocates, and friends of veterans. Your input will be crucial in helping me and helping Montana's vets.

We could not have achieved what we did in Miles City without the help of committed advocates like Roy Dalrymple and providers like Dick Stanley. They made sure that I knew the concerns of local vets and they helped me in addressing those concerns.

Together we can make sure that Montana's veterans continue to receive the best health care available.

CONCLUSION

I want to congratulate each and every one of you at this conference. Your attendance here is important. The issues you discuss and learn will go beyond this weekend. You will have the opportunity to be part of the solution and assist some people who desperately need our help.

Our veterans don't want special treatment. They don't want more than their fair share. But they do want us to live up to the promises we've made. I know you are committed to that goal.

It will always be my commitment to our nation's veterans.

Thank you. And enjoy your convention. I look forward to working with you in the future.
Remarks of Senator Max Baucus  
Disabled American Veterans Convention  
Butte, Montana  

May 16, 1997

Hello everyone. It is an honor to be speaking with you this morning. I hope this convention will be helpful and informative for all of you.

Memorial Day is right around the corner. And for too many Americans that holiday is simply a day off work. I believe it should be a time to ponder and reflect on the sacrifices made for us. We called on them to serve. When their time came, they did not hesitate.

I think President Kennedy best summed up our nation's veterans when he said: "A man does what he must -- in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures -- and that is the basis of all human morality."

Our veterans laid down their bodies and their lives so that we might have a better life in a free country. It is part of our moral obligation to make sure that we care for them. And that is why you are at this convention today.

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My philosophy toward restructuring is this: Montana vets deserve health care that is as good as, or better than, the service they now receive.

Achieving that philosophy can be done in many ways. In Miles City, when they wanted to close down the surgery center, I insisted that the VA pay for vets to get care at either Holy Rosary or some
other VA hospital. And the vets get to decide where they go. VA agreed.

This is how restructuring in Montana will be done -- on a case by case basis. I intend to watch this process closely. I want to listen to vets. And then I intend to make sure they get the services they need.

And as this process goes forward, I will be looking to people like you: community leaders, advocates, and friends of veterans. Your input will be crucial in helping me and helping Montana’s vets.

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May 16, 1997

Hello everyone. It is an honor to be speaking with you this morning. I hope this convention will be helpful and informative for all of you.

I think it is fitting that we take just a moment to recognize the real reason you are gathered here today. You are here because you believe, like me, that we owe an unpayable debt of gratitude to our veterans. They are people who laid down their bodies and their lives so that we might have a better life in a free country.

We called on them to serve. When their time came, they did not hesitate. And now, we must not hesitate in giving them the honor and care they deserve. That is not a commitment that I take lightly. A way part us why you are at this convention today.

And it is part of our moral obligation to make sure that we care for maintaining vets' health care.

So how can we go about making sure we live up to our commitment to veterans? One important way is to make sure that health care for vets is the best we can provide.

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My philosophy toward restructuring is this: Montana vets deserve health care that is as good as, or better than, the service they now receive.

Achieving that philosophy can be done in many ways. In Miles City, when they wanted to close down the surgery center, I insisted that the VA pay for vets to get care at either Holy Rosary or some other VA hospital. And the vets get to decide where they go. The VA agreed.

This is how restructuring in Montana will be done -- on a case by case basis. I intend to watch this process closely. I want to
listen to vets. And then I intend to make sure they get the services they need.

And as this process goes forward, I will be looking to people like you: community leaders, advocates, and friends of veterans. Your input will be crucial in helping me and helping Montana’s vets.

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MAINTAINING VETS' HEALTH CARE

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But there are some things we should keep in mind as the restructuring process goes forward. First, we have to realize that restructuring is going to happen. But second, we need to remember that restructuring doesn’t have to be bad for Montana veterans.

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Achieving that philosophy can be done in many ways. In Miles City, when they wanted to close down the surgery center, I insisted that the VA pay to have the vets taken care of at Holy Rosary or VA hospital. And the vets get to decide where they go. The VA agreed.

This is how restructuring in Montana will be done -- on a case by case basis. I intend to watch this process closely. I want to listen to vets. And then I intend to make sure they get the services they need.
And as this process goes forward, I will be looking to people like you: community leaders, advocates, and friends of veterans. Your input will be crucial in helping me and helping Montana’s vets.

We could not have achieved what we did in Miles City without the help of committed advocates like Roy Dalrymple and Dick Stanley. They made sure that I knew the concerns of local vets and they helped me in achieving those concerns.

CONCLUSION

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Our veterans don’t want special treatment; they don’t want more than their fair share. But they do want us to live up to the commitments we’ve made. I know you are committed to that goal.

And that’s been a commitment of mine from the day I took office. It will always be my commitment to our nation’s veterans.

Thank you. And enjoy your convention. I look forward to working with you in the future.
Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
Disabled American Veterans Convention
Butte, Montana
May 16, 1997

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prosperous for all of you.

I think it is fitting that we take just a moment to recognize the real reason you are gathered here today. You are here because you believe, like me, that we owe an unpayable debt of gratitude to our veterans. They are people who laid down their bodies and their lives so that we might have a better life in a free country.

We called on them to serve and when their time came, they did not hesitate. And now, we must not hesitate in giving them the care they deserve. That is not a commitment that I take lightly.

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So how can we go about making sure we live up to our commitment to veterans? One important way is to make sure that health care for vets is the best we can provide.

I’m sure a lot of you have heard about the restructuring of the VA. And I know a lot of you are pretty concerned with what might happen to veterans’ health care in Montana. Well so am I.

But there are some things we should keep in mind as the restructuring process goes forward. First, we have to realize that restructuring is going to happen no matter what. But second, we need to remember that restructuring doesn’t have to be bad for veterans.

My philosophy toward restructuring is this: Montana vets deserve health care that is as good as, or better than, the service they now receive.

Achieving that philosophy can be done in many ways. In Miles City, when they wanted to close down the surgery center, I insisted that the VA pay to have the vets taken care of at Holy Rosary or a VA hospital. And the vets get to decide where they go. The VA agreed.

This is how restructuring in Montana will be done -- on a case by case basis. I intend to watch this process closely. I want to listen to vets. And then I want to help make sure they get the services they need.
And that will take effort from people like you. We could not have achieved what we did in Miles City without the help of committed advocates like Roy Dalrymple and Dick Stanley. They made sure that I knew the concerns of local vets and they helped me in achieving those concerns.

And in the future, as the restructuring process goes forward, I will be looking to people like you: community leaders, advocates, and friends of veterans. Your input will be crucial in helping me and helping Montana’s vets.

CONCLUSION

Your attendance at this conference is important. Because the things you do today and tomorrow and Sunday will go well beyond this weekend. You will have the opportunity to take what you’ve learned to places and people who are desperately in need of some help.

Our veterans don’t want special treatment; they don’t want more than their fair share. But they do want us to live up to the commitments we’ve made. I know you are committed to that goal.

And that has been a commitment of mine from the day I took office. It will always be my commitment to our nation’s veterans.

Thank you. And enjoy your convention. I look forward to working with you in the future.
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Hello everybody. It is an honor to be speaking with you this morning. I hope you this convention will be informative and prosperous for all of you.

I think it is fitting that we take just a moment to recognize the real reason you are gathered here today. You are here because we owe an unpayable debt of gratitude to our veterans. They are the people who laid down their bodies and their lives so that we might have a better life in a free country. In Montana, we have many who have sacrificed for God and country. And since the war of independence, we have promised to take care of those who were injured or maimed in battle.

We called on them to serve, and when their time came, they did not hesitate. And now, we must not hesitate in giving them the care they deserve. That is not a commitment that I take lightly.

MAINTAINING VETS' HEALTH CARE

So how can we go about making sure we live up to our commitment to the vets? One good way is to make sure that health care for vets is the best we can provide.

I'm sure you have heard about the restructuring of the VA health care system. A lot of you are probably pretty intimate with the details. And I know a lot of you are pretty concerned with what might happen to veterans' health care in Montana. Well so am I.

But there are some things we should keep in mind as the restructuring moves forward. First, we have to realize that restructuring is going to happen no matter what. But second, we need to remember that restructuring doesn't have to be bad for our vets. My philosophy is this: Montana vets deserve health care that is as good as, or better than, the service they now receive.

Achieving that philosophy can be done in many ways. In Miles City, when they wanted to close down the surgery center, I insisted that the VA pay to have the vets taken care of at Holy Rosary or a VA hospital and the vets get to decide where they go. The VA agreed. Restructuring in Montana will be done on a case by case basis. I want to listen to vets in the local areas. I want to hear what they need. And then I want to help and make sure they get it. We could not have achieved what we did in Miles City without the help of committed advocates like Roy Dalrymple and Dick Stanley. They made sure that I knew the concerns of local vets and...
they helped me in achieving those concerns.

CONCLUSION

Because the things you do today and tomorrow and Sunday, go well beyond this weekend. You will have the opportunity to take what you've learned to places and people who are desperately in need of some help. Our veterans haven't always had an easy time of things.

And that's not right. Since the very beginnings of our country, they did want us to live up to the commitments we've made. They do want their fair share. But, just as we must do nationally, we need to recognize the needs of these special citizens. That has been a commitment of mine from the day I took office. That will always be my commitment to our nation's veterans.

Thank you. Enjoy your convention.