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## Flathead Veterans Meeting

Max S. Baucus

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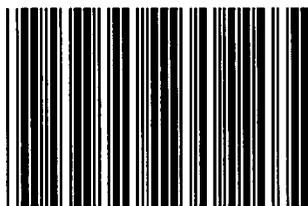
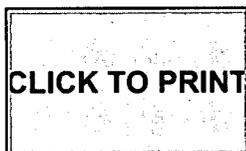
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BAUCUS

**Remarks for Flathead Vets Meeting  
Senator Max Baucus  
O'Shaughnessy Center, Whitefish  
November 28, 2000**

Thanks, everyone, for coming out on a cold  
afternoon to discuss the future of the VA health care  
system and the needs of Montana veterans.

Communication between vets, elected officials and  
the VA is critical, and I look forward to a fruitful  
discussion today.

By the way, if any of you have specific questions  
about claims, benefits, etc., there are three experts  
from VA Montana in the back of the room ready to  
speak with you.

Aside from that, I hope to keep this meeting focused on the VA health care system and how services to veterans can be improved.

So who are our veterans? Some are easy to recognize. They wear uniforms, medals, and ribbons. Most veterans, however, live among us quietly and anonymously. They are America's own sons and daughters.

A veteran is an elderly gentleman sitting on a park bench, who helped liberate a Nazi concentration camp.

A veteran is the service station mechanic, who showed extraordinary courage at the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.

A veteran is the nurse taking care of newborns in a hospital nursery, who once bandaged bloody limbs at Da Nang (duh NANG).

A veteran is a POW, who once returned home to face a culture he didn't recognize and now finds himself able at last to tell his story to his adult children.