From: March, Joseph H.
To: Public Relations Division
Sent: 1/23/2009 4:31:07 PM
Subject: American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan

Attachments:

The National Commander sent the following letter today to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It is provided for your information and dissemination.

January 23, 2009

Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-6501

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As you and your colleagues consider the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan, The American Legion offers its full support for those provisions which would invest in America's service members, veterans and their families.

The American Legion applauds the efforts of the leadership to invest $6 billion for military construction and $1 billion for much needed Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities and cemeteries. This package will address military construction projects such as military hospitals and ambulatory centers, barracks and dormitories, and child development centers on military installations. The bill also provides funding to address repairs to VA medical facilities and monument/memorial repairs in cemeteries across the nation.

Nothing will help "jump start" the national economy more than construction and employment programs within the veterans' community. The American Legion would encourage Department of Defense and VA to aggressively award these projects to veteran-owned small businesses, especially those small businesses owned by disabled veterans in local communities across the country, in accordance with Public Law 107-288, the Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002.

Once again, The American Legion supports timely passage and enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.

Thank you for your continued commitment to America's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

DAVID K. REHBEIN
National Commander