



LOUISIANA SENATE

SEN. APPEL RECAPS AREA TOWN HALL MEETING ON VETERANS AFFAIRS ISSUES

On Wednesday September 3, 2014 we held a town hall meeting focused on providing information to local veterans and hearing about some of their personal issues. I started the meeting with a favorite quote of mine by Winston Churchill –

“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.”

I believe that this quotation captures very graphically the debt that we citizens owe to our veterans and their families.

Jimmy Murphy, the Director of the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, discussed the status of the new VA Hospital in New Orleans. He also answered questions from concerned vets about healthcare issues.

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David LeCerte discussed the services available through the state of Louisiana and he answered questions relating to the veterans. He introduced Larry Jones, a volunteer who works with the LDAV Jefferson Parish Service office assisting veterans in our community. Mike McNaughton, Outreach Director for LDAV, also attended.

Finally Judge Ellen Kovach and Judge John Molaison described a new veteran’s treatment court program they are establishing in Jefferson Parish. It is targeted at veterans who find themselves involved in the court system due to problems with the law. Such veteran’s treatment court programs have proven exceptionally successful in other parts of the country.

Of the many veterans present the majority, with only a few exceptions, expressed deep appreciation to the local veteran’s administration personnel. They did bring up problems that they had experienced in their relationship with the VA. Both

Secretary LeCerte and Director Murphy had staff people at the town hall meeting who took careful notes of the issues and promised to resolve them as quickly as possible.

I am personally confident that both of these leaders are very sincere and will continue to strive to make the lives of our veterans as comfortable and healthy as is possible.

We owe so much to our veterans, our country's solemn promise to them is that we assure them the finest healthcare available and I for one will do whatever I can to insure that we do just that.

Senator Conrad Appel