

Contra Costa Times - Political Blotter

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Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, will serve as the ranking Democratic Party member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

In a quote provided by his office, McNerney said, "I'm honored to serve as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. This subcommittee is responsible for overseeing most benefits for our veterans, such as disability and pension benefits. I'm committed to improving care for the men and women who have served our country and, as ranking member of this important subcommittee I will continue my work in this area."

Like most members of Congress, McNerney has developed a strong policy interest in a particular arena. McNerney focuses heavily on veterans issues and has sat on the committee since 2007. Many Democrats lost their favored committee assignments after the GOP took majority control of the House. The Republican leaders also reduced committee sizes, which further reduced the Democrats' assignments.

According to McNerney's office: The Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs oversees the process by which the Department of Veterans Affairs provides benefits for veterans, including disability, pension, life insurance and burial benefits. The Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs is also responsible for overseeing the Board of Veterans' Appeals and the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims. These bodies review and issue decisions for benefit claims determinations made by local veterans offices.