

Announces hearing in California focused on Veteran Centers

Stockton, Calif. – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) announced that next week, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a field hearing in Modesto, Calif. As the Ranking Member on the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Rep. McNerney has taken an active role in providing for America's veterans.

"I am glad that the committee has recognized the need for this important hearing and the unique needs of the veterans from our region. I look forward to working on the challenges we will hear about on Thursday and identifying opportunities to improve the care our veterans receive. They have fought to protect our way of life and we have a commitment to honor their service by providing for them the best we can," said Rep. McNerney.

What: House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health "Vet Centers and the Veterans Health Administration: Opportunities and Challenges"

When: Thurs., April 5, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: American Legion Hall 1001 South Santa Cruz Avenue Modesto, California

Hearing Participants

First Panel: Veterans - the first panel will feature veterans who have varied but representative experiences of Vet Centers. The testimony will demonstrate for the Committee the value of the high autonomy given to Vet Centers, the range of services provided and the effectiveness of the peer-to-peer counseling.

- Mr. Chris Lambert
- Mr. Ryan Lundebly

- Mr. Phillip White

Second Panel: Professional Staff - the second panel will include Vet Center staff, a representative of the County Veterans Service Office and the Director of a regional VAMC. The testimony will highlight the relationship between the VA and the VHA, where they cooperate well and areas for improvement.

- Roger Duke - Readjustment Counseling Therapist- Modesto Vet Center
- Randall Reyes - Outreach Coordinator - Modesto Vet Center
- Carolyn S. Hebenstreich - Veterans Services Officer Stanislaus County
- Ron Green – Veterans Service Officer San Joaquin County Director
- Lisa Freeman - Veterans Affairs Medical Center Palo Alto