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Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) gave the keynote address last night to the Golden Triangle Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) in Columbus. The Congressman spoke to more than 50 veterans, military retirees, active duty men and women, members of the Mississippi National Guard and Reserve, and their families.

"We would not be the state or nation we are today without the honorable sacrifices made by these fine men and women and their families," said Congressman Childers. "Those who honorably serve our country don't just deserve important benefits, they've earned them. The 111th Congress has already passed several important pieces of legislation affecting veterans' benefits, and I plan to continue making access to quality health care, employment opportunities, and the availability of first-rate facilities a top priority."

In Mississippi's First Congressional District, there are 7,500 veterans currently receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration, along with more than 4,000 military retirees.

Veterans legislation already passed during the 111th Congress includes a veterans' compensation cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), an expansion of emergency treatment eligibility, and the reauthorization of important homeless veterans reintegration programs.

In addition, Congressman Childers recently joined nearly 70 colleagues in a successful effort to block a White House proposal that would allow the VA to bill veterans' private health insurance companies for treatment of service-related injuries and disabilities.

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