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Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) visited with veterans in Marshall and Lafayette Counties yesterday. He met with Veterans Affairs representatives at Northeast Mississippi Health Care Clinic in Byhalia and held a County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) roundtable in Oxford to discuss issues important to North Mississippi veterans.

"The fine men and women who have served to protect the freedoms upon which this country was founded deserve the best care possible," said Congressman Childers. "I am proud to have met with North Mississippi veterans, and am committed to providing our armed services retirees and active duty members with the services they need."

During the CVSO roundtable, Congressman Childers spoke with veterans about legislative efforts concerning the military, and also answered questions about issues of importance to North Mississippi armed services retirees, including medical benefits and the G.I. Bill.

The Congressman recently voted for funding for the Veterans Administration and military construction projects, legislation that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the House. The legislation rejects the President's proposal to cut VA construction by nearly \$800 million, continues Congress' work to address critical medical needs facing soldiers as they return from Iraq and Afghanistan, and provides quality of life funding for active duty military men and women for the first time in the last seven years.

During his first month in office, Congressman Childers voted for the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, which provides full funding for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and includes a landmark expansion of G.I. benefits. The Congressman has also cosponsored legislation that provides financial assistance to state Veterans Affairs for the improvement of veteran outreach and assistance, and he voted to pass the National Guard and Reservists Debt Act of 2008 to reform the federal bankruptcy law so that members of the National Guard and Reserve can more easily file for bankruptcy and eventually make a full financial recovery.

Just before July 4, Congressman Childers traveled to Iraq during a congressional delegation to the Middle East. The Congressman participated in various informative national security briefings and also met and thanked U.S. troops, including armed service members from Mississippi's First Congressional District. While in Iraq, the Congressman visited a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle facility, where he saw vehicles produced in North Mississippi at a manufacturing facility in West Point.

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