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**Analysis: Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans Have Begun
Reversing the Decades-Long Decline in Congressional Military Service**

Washington, D.C. – Veterans Campaign, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting veterans seeking elected office, has conducted an initial analysis of the Congressional races involving veteran candidates. Lost in the wake of Donald Trump’s surprise victory over Hillary Clinton is the news that the new Congress will include a growing number of Post-9/11 veterans.

The number of veterans in Congress has been steadily declining since the end of the Vietnam War, when three quarters of Congress had served in uniform. Today, veterans make up less than 19 percent of Congress. However, the 2016 election seems to indicate that the trend is reversing. “The number of veterans in both the House and Senate will remain about the same, and the number of veteran House nominees was roughly the same as in 2014,” said Seth Lynn, Executive Director of Veterans Campaign. “But what’s really interesting is that **veterans will make up about 26 percent of House freshmen, a much higher share than in recent freshman classes, and far higher than the proportion of veterans currently serving in the House.**”

In addition to the data provided below, Veterans Campaign will present its **Campaign 2016 Field Report** in the coming weeks, detailing additional trends and analysis.

Summary of Initial Findings

Between (13) and (14) newly-elected vets will join the 115th House of Representatives.¹

- This is comparable to the past two elections, when (12) veterans were elected to the House.
- Veterans will account for approximately 26% of House freshmen², a much higher share than in recent freshman classes (17% in 2013 and 20% in 2015), and far higher than the proportion of veterans currently serving in the House.
- The newly-elected veterans include (3) Democrats and (10) - (11) Republicans.

Between (81) and (82) total veterans will serve in the 115th House of Representatives.

- This is an increase from the (80) veterans currently serving and is comparable to the (82) serving when the 114th Congress took office.
- The partisan breakdown of House veterans will be (19) Democrats and (62) - (63) Republicans.

The number of veterans in the Senate remained constant at (21). This is the second election in a row that the number did not drop, following a 32-year decline.

- (16) veteran incumbents did not face reelection this year.
- (3) veteran incumbents were reelected - John McCain (R-AZ), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Johnny Isakson (R-GA).
- (1) veteran, Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), lost his reelection bid to a fellow veteran Tammy Duckworth. Kirk was the only veteran incumbent defeated in either the House or the Senate.
- (1) veteran, Dan Coats (R-IN), retired and was replaced by fellow vet, Todd Young (R-IN).

House of Representatives Major Party Nominees

- (162) veterans received a major party nomination in 2016, about the same number that received a nomination in 2014 (164).

The number of women vets in Congress stayed constant after several years of growth

- All (4) women veterans will continue serving in the next Congress, although Tammy Duckworth will move from the House to the Senate.
- (9) women veterans received a major party nomination for the House and (1) for the Senate. This was approximately the same as 2014.

Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)

- (7) new OIF and OEF veterans were elected to the House and (1) to the Senate.
- Additionally, Brian Fitzpatrick, newly-elected in PA, served in Operation Iraqi Freedom with the FBI but is not a military veteran.

¹ Former Marine Clay Higgins is in a runoff for Louisiana's 3rd district; he will be the 14th newly-elected veteran if he wins.

² Not accounting for races still to be determined.

VETERANS CAMPAIGN

Veterans in the 115th Senate

First Name	Last Name	State	Incumbent	Branch of Service	Party Affiliation	OIF / OEF Service
Dan	Sullivan	AK	Yes	Marine Corps	Republican	OEF
Jeff	Sessions	AL	Yes	Army	Republican	
Tom	Cotton	AR	Yes	Army	Republican	OIF/OEF
John	McCain	AZ	Yes	Navy	Republican	
Richard	Blumenthal	CT	Yes	Marine Corps	Democrat	
Tom	Carper	DE	Yes	Navy	Democrat	
Bill	Nelson	FL	Yes	Army	Democrat	
Johnny	Isakson	GA	Yes	Army	Republican	
Joni	Ernst	IA	Yes	Army	Republican	OIF/OEF
Tammy	Duckworth	IL	Yes	Army	Democrat	OIF
Todd	Young	IN	Yes	Marine Corps	Republican	
Pat	Roberts	KS	Yes	Marine Corps	Republican	
Mitch	McConnell	KY	Yes	Army	Republican	
Ed	Markey	MA	Yes	Army	Democrat	
Gary	Peters	MI	Yes	Navy	Democrat	
Thad	Cochran	MS	Yes	Navy	Republican	
Roger	Wicker	MS	Yes	Air Force	Republican	
Jim	Inhofe	OK	Yes	Army	Republican	
Jack	Reed	RI	Yes	Army	Democrat	
Lindsey	Graham	SC	Yes	Air Force	Republican	
Mike	Enzi	WY	Yes	Air Force	Republican	

Veterans in the 115th House of Representatives

First Name	Last Name	State	District	Incumbent	Branch of Service	Party	OIF/OEF	Outcome
Don	Young	AK	N/A	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Rick	Crawford	AR	1	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Steve	Womack	AR	3	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Martha	McSally	AZ	2	Yes	Air Force	Republican	OIF, OEF	Winner
Ruben	Gallego	AZ	7	Yes	Marine Corps	Democrat	OIF	Winner
Mike	Thompson	CA	5	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Paul	Cook	CA	8	Yes	Marine Corps	Republican		Winner
Jeff	Denham	CA	10	Yes	Air Force	Republican		Winner
Jimmy	Panetta	CA	20	No	Navy	Democrat	OEF	Winner
Salud	Carbajal	CA	24	No	Marine Corps	Democrat		Winner
Stephen	Knight	CA	25	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Ted	Lieu	CA	33	Yes	Air Force	Democrat		Winner
Darrell	Issa	CA	49	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Duncan	Hunter	CA	50	Yes	Marine Corps	Republican	OIF, OEF	Winner
Mike	Coffman	CO	6	Yes	Marine Corps	Republican	OIF	Winner
Neal	Dunn	FL	2	No	Army	Republican		Winner
Ron	DeSantis	FL	6	Yes	Navy	Republican	OIF	Winner
Vern	Buchanan	FL	16	Yes	Air Force	Republican		Winner
Thomas	Rooney	FL	17	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Brian	Mast	FL	18	No	Army	Republican	OIF	Winner
Sanford	Bishop	GA	2	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Doug	Collins	GA	9	Yes	Air Force	Republican	OIF	Winner
Barry	Loudermilk	GA	11	Yes	Air Force	Republican	OIF	Winner
Tulsi	Gabbard	HI	2	Yes	Army	Democrat	OIF	Winner
Bobby L.	Rush	IL	1	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Mike	Bost	IL	12	Yes	Marine Corps	Republican		Winner
John	Shimkus	IL	15	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Adam	Kinzinger	IL	16	Yes	Air Force	Republican	OIF, OEF	Winner
Jim	Banks	IN	3	No	Navy	Republican	OEF	Winner
Larry	Bucshon	IN	8	Yes	Navy	Republican		Winner
Roger	Marshall	KS	1	No	Army	Republican		Winner
Mike	Pompeo	KS	4	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner

Veterans in the 115th House of Representatives

First Name	Last Name	State	District	Incumbent	Branch of Service	Party	OIF/OEF	Outcome
Brett	Guthrie	KY	2	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Hal	Rogers	KY	5	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
*Clay	Higgins	LA	3	No	Army	Republican		Run Off
Ralph	Abraham	LA	5	Yes	Coast Guard	Republican		Winner
Seth	Moulton	MA	6	Yes	Marine Corps	Democrat	OIF	Winner
Andy	Harris	MD	1	Yes	Navy	Republican		Winner
Anthony	Brown	MD	4	No	Army	Democrat	OIF	Winner
Jack	Bergman	MI	1	No	Marine Corps	Republican		Winner
John	Conyers	MI	13	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Tim	Walz	MN	1	Yes	Army	Democrat	OEF	Winner
Collin	Peterson	MN	7	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Gregorio	Sablan	MP	N/A	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Trent	Kelly	MS	1	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Steven	Palazzo	MS	4	Yes	Marine Corps	Republican		Winner
Ryan	Zinke	MT	N/A	Yes	Navy	Republican	OIF	Winner
G.K.	Butterfield	NC	1	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Walter B.	Jones	NC	3	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Don	Bacon	NE	2	No	Air Force	Republican	OIF	Winner
Bill	Pascrell	NJ	9	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Rodney	Frelinghuysen	NJ	11	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Steve	Pearce	NM	2	Yes	Air Force	Republican		Winner
Mark	Amodei	NV	2	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Lee	Zeldin	NY	1	Yes	Army	Republican	OIF	Winner
Peter	King	NY	2	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
José E.	Serrano	NY	15	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Brad	Wenstrup	OH	2	Yes	Army	Republican	OIF	Winner
Bill	Johnson	OH	6	Yes	Air Force	Republican	OIF	Winner
Warren	Davidson³	OH	8	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Steve	Stivers	OH	15	Yes	Army	Republican	OIF	Winner

³ Warren Davidson, though technically an incumbent, replaced John Boehner in a special election as recently as June 7, 2016, and is therefore listed as a newly-elected veteran.

VETERANS CAMPAIGN

Veterans in the 115th House of Representatives

First Name	Last Name	State	District	Incumbent	Branch of Service	Party	OIF/OEF	Outcome
Jim	Bridenstine	OK	1	Yes	Navy	Republican	OEF	Winner
Steve	Russell	OK	5	Yes	Army	Republican	OIF, OEF	Winner
Peter	DeFazio	OR	4	Yes	Air Force	Democrat		Winner
Scott	Perry	PA	4	Yes	Army	Republican	OIF	Winner
Tim	Murphy	PA	18	Yes	Navy	Republican		Winner
Mark	Sanford	SC	1	Yes	Air Force	Republican		Winner
Joe	Wilson	SC	2	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Phil	Roe	TN	1	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
John	Duncan	TN	2	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Louie	Gohmert	TX	1	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Ted	Poe	TX	2	Yes	Air Force	Republican		Winner
Sam	Johnson	TX	3	Yes	Air Force	Republican		Winner
Michael	Conaway	TX	11	Yes	Army	Republican		Winner
Pete	Olson	TX	22	Yes	Navy	Republican		Winner
Brian	Babin	TX	36	Yes	Air Force	Republican		Winner
Chris	Stewart	UT	2	Yes	Air Force	Republican		Winner
Scott	Taylor	VA	2	No	Navy	Republican	OIF	Winner
Bobby	Scott	VA	3	Yes	Army	Democrat		Winner
Tom	Garrett	VA	5	No	Army	Republican		Winner
David	Reichert	WA	8	Yes	Air Force	Republican		Winner
Mike	Gallagher	WI	8	No	Marine Corps	Republican	OIF	Winner