*More Georgia Representatives join the fight to raise outdated mileage reimbursement rates for disabled veterans*

**Washington, DC -** Four of the nation's leading veterans associations, the American Legion, AMVETS (American Veterans), the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Vietnam Veterans of America, have all thrown their support behind Georgia Congressman John Barrow's (12th District) recently introduced *Disabled Veterans Fairness Act* (H.R. 4025) - bipartisan legislation that will help bring the outdated mileage reimbursement rate for eligible disabled veterans up to speed with current rates for federal employees.

In their letter of endorsement, the American Legion wrote that "this legislation is long overdue," and that it will "give veterans access to health care they have already earned." Additionally, they thanked Barrow for his "continued leadership and support of America's veterans and their families."

In a separate letter to Barrow, AMVETS said that it "strongly supports the goal of your proposal and endorses your effort," adding that America owes "so much to these honorable veterans, it is time we correct this inadequacy."

James D. Randles, National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart - whose membership is entirely comprised of wounded veterans - hailed Barrow's bill as "important and timely legislation." And the Vietnam Veterans Association of America's National President, John Rowan, said that the "Disabled Veterans Fairness Act deserves wide bipartisan support."

The American Legion, AMVETS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Vietnam Veterans of America join two other major veterans associations, the Disabled American Veterans and the Paralyzed Veterans of America, in supporting Barrow's *Disabled Veterans Fairness Act* . In addition, 50 members of Congress have now signed on as cosponsors of the bill, including Georgia Representatives Sanford Bishop, David Scott, Cynthia McKinney, and John Lewis.

Under federal law, eligible veterans who travel to receive medical treatment are entitled to have their mileage reimbursed. Currently, those veterans are reimbursed at only $0.11 per mile - less than one fourth of the $0.48 per mile reimbursement that federal employees presently receive for their travel. The last time the rate was increased for eligible disabled veterans was nearly 30 years ago, in 1977.

The *Disabled Veterans Fairness Act* would eliminate this current inequity by bringing the mileage reimbursement for veterans in line with the current requirements for federal employees.

###

Contact: Harper Lawson, (202) 225-2823

click here for a .pdf copy of this release