

OPERATION FIRING FOR EFFECT



The Veterans Advocacy Group

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OFFE TIMELINE

(Year in Review)

August 27, 2006 through September 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

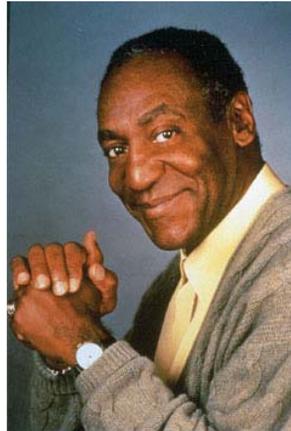
August 27, 2006

Bill Cosby to Speak at OFFE Veterans' Rally in Newark NJ

WWW.FIREBASENETWORK.NET

By Staff Writer: Rick Townsend
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September 6th, well known television star and U.S. Navy veteran Bill Cosby will be the guest speaker at a veterans rally in Newark, New Jersey. The event has been organized to bring attention to issues important to this country's former military personnel and their families.



The Newark Rally is sponsored by a grassroots group whose primary objective is to improve and protect the benefits and services earned by veterans. **'Operation Firing For Effect'** (OFFE) is a non-profit organization devoted to insuring promises that were made to our troops are kept after they are discharged from military service.

Operation Firing For Effect's New Jersey Chairman and rally organizer Don Scholtes, 60, of Mantoloking NJ is confident of a successful event. In a recent FBN interview, Scholtes explained the purpose of the Newark rally. "Our primary objective is very simple; improve and protect the

services and benefits earned by our men and women in uniform,” Scholtes said. “We are attempting to unite our country’s former military personnel into an organized movement focused on veteran’s affairs in this country,” he added.

Don Scholtes is a combat wounded Vietnam veteran who served with the U.S. Army’s HHC, 3rd BDE, 25th Infantry Division during 1966 & 1967. He is the recipient of the Purple Heart medal for wounds received in combat in Vietnam.

After his discharge from the Army, he went to work for ABC Monday Night Football. Don Scholtes worked for ABC for 34 years as Audio Director before taking early retirement in 2002, due to aggravated combat-related disabilities.

Scholtes now spends his retirement time working for his fellow veterans. “We have some very serious problems facing our veterans. I made a personal pledge to God that I would do everything in my power to help bring attention to these problems,” Scholtes said.

One issue highlighted by the Newark Rally will be mandatory full funding for veteran’s healthcare and services. On March 16, 2006, the United States Senate voted down mandatory funding for veterans’ healthcare (Ref: Stabenow Amendment No. 3141), which would have guaranteed mandatory funding for veterans’ healthcare, and which defeated by the narrowest of margins, eight votes, (YEA 46 / NAY 54).

The Newark Rally will be held in Washington Park, which is across from the Veterans Administration Building at 20 Washington Place, Newark, New Jersey. It will take place on Wednesday September 6, 2006, at 10 am and conclude at 2 pm. So far, speakers will include; TV personality Bill Cosby, National Chairman of Operation Firing For Effect, Gene D. Simes, Mildred Crump, President of the Municipal Council in Newark, Dana Rone, Council woman of the Fifth Ward, Dr. Walter Floric who pioneered in-patient PTSD care for the Veterans Administration in New Jersey, as well as the Reverend Joseph A. Carter of The New Hope Baptist Church. Many more speakers are expected.

Vietnam combat veteran and veteran’s rights advocate, Gene D. Simes of Rochester, New York will be a guest speaker at the Newark Rally. “This is the second rally we have had this year,” Simes told the FBN. “Our first rally was held in Washington DC in April and was a tremendous success,” Simes said. “We are addressing healthcare issues that affect not only the veterans that fall under the Department of Veterans Affairs, but retired military personnel that fall under the Department of Defense’s TriCare as well. To my knowledge no one has taken this all-inclusive approach before,” Simes added.

Veteran’s rights advocate and Vietnam combat veteran Jere Beery of Jefferson Ohio is Public Relations Director for **Operation Firing For Effect**. “We have a new web site for **Operation Firing For Effect**, but it is still under construction. Once it is operational, we will give out the address. We are encouraging veterans and their families to get involved in the movement. The veterans of this country have from ‘now’ until ‘2008’ to influence the national elections by putting veterans’ issues in the political landscape,” Beery stated.

Operation Firing For Effect has yet another event planned for later this year in Washington DC. On September 18, 2006 key members of OFFE will meet with legislators in room 418 of the Russell building to discuss the state of veterans’ affairs.

Below is a list of some of the topics to be discussed.

Department of Veterans Affairs

- Mandatory / assured funding for veteran's healthcare and services. (Including dental and mental health)
- Protection of veteran's benefits in civil courts to include enforcement of USC, Title 38, §5301(a).
- Homeless veterans and funding.
- Expedite backlog of veteran's claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Adverse effects of rising gas prices for disabled veterans traveling to VA hospitals for much needed medical care.
- Remove hiring freeze of medical staff within the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Security personal data within the DVA and accountability.
- Innovative ideas for providing healthcare and services to our veterans.
 - a) Development of a free cable channel for the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide news, information, and healthcare tips.

Department of Defense

- Mandatory / assured funding for retired military healthcare and services. (Including dental and mental health)
- Declassification of military records of veterans applying for healthcare and benefits.
- Adverse affects of military Base closures (BRAC) has on elderly retired military families and their healthcare needs.
- Concurrent receipt for Chapter 61 military retired personnel.
- Reform of the Uniform Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA).

If you would like more information on **Operation Firing For Effect**, or you wish to organize a rally in your area, contact Gene Simes for details, gdsusa@rochester.rr.com

If you would like more information on the Newark Rally, contact Don Scholtes, (732)701-0408, donfv@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2006
(Special Edition)

Former Navy Corpsman & Actor Bill Cosby Speaks Out on Veterans' Healthcare

WWW.FIREBASENETWORK.NET

By Staff Writer: Rick Townsend
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Last week, on September 6th, well-known actor and civic activist Bill Cosby was the guest speaker at a veteran's rights rally sponsored by 'Operation Firing For Effect' in Newark, New Jersey. Mr. Cosby publicly voiced his concerns about the current state of veterans' healthcare in

the U.S. The Newark Rally was the latest rally in a continuing series of events sponsored by the grassroots veteran's rights group, Operation Firing For Effect (OFFE).

Bill Cosby, a well-known television and movie personality, flew in from Los Angeles to speak at the rally, and said he agreed to fit the rally into his schedule because he believes veteran's issues have been lost as the debate in Washington remains focused on the current wars. Bill Cosby is also a former U.S. Navy Corpsman who served for 4 years during the 1950s and saw firsthand the horrors of war injuries and death.



Former Navy Corpsman Bill Cosby addresses veterans and supporters at OFFE Rally

"I can't believe they bring home our warriors and then turn out the lights on them," said Cosby. "People coming home sick and not allowed to be. This is a cause no one can deny."

Cosby pointed out that when we were attacked (on 9/11/2001), all the politicians sang 'God Bless America'. "Then they went in a back room and said 'Let's make some cutbacks (to veterans programs)," Cosby added.

In a phone interview, New Jersey OFFE Chairman and rally organizer, Don Scholtes said, "The rally was extremely positive and powerful and I predict the overall effects from this event are yet to be recognized. Mr. Cosby's comments were right on the mark," Scholtes stated.

Scholtes told the FBN that he was very pleased with the way the rally unfolded. "Mr. Cosby has gained a great deal of respect and admiration from many veterans across this country, especially our disabled veterans. His endorsement and active involvement in the grassroots movement to improve and protect the healthcare entitlements earned by our former military personnel makes Mr. Cosby a 'Great American' under any definition," Scholtes said.

The primary issue highlighted by the Newark Rally was mandatory full funding for veterans' healthcare and services. On March 16, 2006, the United States Senate voted against mandatory funding for veterans' healthcare ([Ref: Stabenow Amendment No. 3141](#)), which would have guaranteed assured funding for veterans' healthcare. The Amendment was defeated by the

narrowest of margins, eight votes, (YEA 46 / NAY 54). Many veterans across the country were very disappointed that it took only 8 Senators to determine the failure of an Amendment that would have affected over 26 million veterans.

OFFE is a national grassroots veteran's rights organization that has been pushing for increased funding for veterans' medical care and services. OFFE is the creation of Gene Simes and Veterans For Veteran Connection, Inc. VFVC is a registered non-profit 501-(c)19 organization devoted to providing a voice for this country's former military personnel and their families on issues of importance to them. Although the VFVC is not a Congressionally Chartered veterans' service organization (NVS), many veterans have joined this grassroots effort in hopes of accomplishing things the NVSOs cannot, because the NVSOs can only do so much under the Congressional restrictions of their charters.

Mr. Gene Simes (OFFE) attended and spoke during the 4 hour rally. Simes told the group that if they did nothing, nothing would change. "The future treatment of our veterans is in our hands. We have the power to influence the way our children and grandchildren are treated if they join the U.S. military. Today's infants are tomorrow's military forces," Simes told the 200+ group. "Mr. Cosby is the first celebrity to speak out in support of increased funding for veterans' healthcare," Simes said. "I pray that other celebrities will follow Mr. Cosby's lead and join our national movement to improve and protect the entitlements and services earned by our men and women in uniform," Simes added.



Cosby receives standing ovation from veterans and supporters

OFFE Public Relations Director Jere Beery of Jefferson Ohio also spoke at the rally. Beery is a long time veteran's rights advocate who has been at the forefront in the battle to protect veteran's entitlements and services for more than 20 years. Beery pointed out the connection between veteran's affairs and military enlistment and retention. "Veterans' affairs are a national security issue. How are we going to recruit a young American whose father has post-traumatic stress from Vietnam or Iraq and can't get help from the VA because the wait is too long or he makes too much money or doesn't have a Purple Heart?," Beery asked. "It used to be the VA was for all veterans in need of medical care or educational assistance or help buying a house. A veteran was a veteran. It appears that just joining the military no longer means as much any more, and that is not a good thing," Beery added.



U.S. Navy veteran Bill Cosby talks to fellow veterans about issues important to them

Other speakers at the OFFE Rally were; Herb Worthington, past president VVA of NJ who spoke about veteran's entitlements; Joseph Tuckman, who talked about the needs of homeless veterans; Patrick Kelly, addressed Anthrax vaccinations; Bob Stephens, talked about living with PTSD; Dr. Walter Glenn Folrek, spoke on PTSD care; Rev. Louise Bates Jennings, spoke on homeless outreach programs; Mayor Wayne Smith, of Livingston NJ publicly pledged his support for our mandatory funding; Jim Collura, represented the Newark Counsel on Veterans Affairs; Dolores Reed, addressed VA inefficiencies; Rep. Frank Pallone, (D-6th Dist.), who spoke at the rally said that the best way for veterans to get and keep Congress' attention is to keep raising their issues.



OFFE Rally organizers; Bob Stephens, Former Navy Corpsman & Actor Bill Cosby, Don Scholtes, and Bob Whitley pose for pictures after the rally

In a FBN phone inquiry, a spokesman for the Veterans Administration in Washington declined to address any specific criticisms of the agency's budget at last week's OFFE rally. Instead, he cited a speech President Bush gave to the American Legion the week before, in which President Bush noted that the budget for veterans' health care has grown 75 percent since he took office.

OFFE organizers counter that the increases haven't kept pace with a patient population that has grown from 4 million to 7.5 million. Many Vietnam veterans have begun to use the system for the first time and are joined by veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

OFFE's next project is a meeting with law makers and elected officials in Washington, DC on September 18, 2006. For more information, visit: WWW.OFFE2008.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2006

OFFE Introduces Dynamic Resolution for Future Veterans' Healthcare

WWW.FIREBASENETWORK.NET

By Staff Writer: Rick Townsend
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Among the many projects Operation Firing For Effect, (OFFE) volunteers have been working on is a resolution which calls for mandatory funding for veterans' healthcare. Contrary to popular belief, the Department of Veterans Affairs receives only discretionary funding from the Department of Defense annual budget. Many veterans' advocates see this as the primary reason the VA health care system cannot keep pace with the fluctuating number of eligible veterans enrolling in the system, and the rising cost of healthcare. Mandatory funding would put veterans funding in a budget category by itself and would solve many of the understaffing problems the VA now faces.

Earlier this year, the funding issue made it to the Senate floor. On March 16, 2006, the United States Senate voted down mandatory funding for veterans' healthcare services (Ref: Stabenow Amendment No. 3141), which would have insured full mandatory funding for veterans' healthcare needs. The final vote was YEA 46 / NAY 54. Evidently, 46 Senators thought it was a worthy idea and voted for the Amendment..

Vietnam combat disabled veteran Gene Simes is National Chairman for OFFE. "Think about it. 8 Senators stood in the way of legislation that would have served over 25 million veterans. That is totally unacceptable," Sime said in a recent FBN telephone interview. "The vote was right down party lines. These Senators are playing political football with the healthcare earned by our veterans," Simes added.

OFFE Public Relations Director Jere Beery weighted in on the matter this way, "Our military has artillery shells that cost over \$250,000.00 each. Our current President has pledged 500 billion dollars for Mars exploration. We send billions overseas for aid to foreign countries that don't even like us. And we have VA hospital emergency rooms closing at 4:30 in the afternoon? Give me a break. The time has come for the America people to voice their support for full mandatory funding of VA system. Our former military personnel deserve nothing less," Beery stated.

Simes and Beery are asking everyone to support full mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. "We want everyone reading this article to print the Resolution out, sign it, and send it in," Sime said. "Take it to work and have your company and co-workers sign a copy. Take

it to church, or union meeting, or high school, or your city council, or the governor of your state, VFW Post or DAV chapter. This issue belongs to every red blooded American,” Simes said.

OFFE is attempting to get the mandatory funding issue on the 2008 national election ballots. The more signed resolutions they can distribute and collect the better the chances the American people will determine this issue.

Operation Firing For Effect (OFFE) is subsidiary of Veterans For Veteran Connection a registered 501-(c)19 non-profit organization home based in Rochester, New York. OFFE is devoted to protecting and improving the healthcare service for our former military personnel and their families. Operation Firing For Effect has representatives and members in many states nationwide. For more information, contact Gene Simes (315)986-7322).

Resolution link > http://offe2008.org/public_html/OFFERes1.doc

Why we need Mandatory Funding for Veteran’s Healthcare

By Gene D. Simes
Chairman, Operation Firing For Effect

Many people are confused about what full funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs really means. Mandated full funding is not a ‘blank check’ concept. All spending within the veteran’s healthcare system would still be subjected to oversight and accountability. Below you will find 8 very good examples of why full mandatory funding of the VA healthcare system is essential. Merely visit the links included to view substantiating documentation.

- On August 22, 1986, the VAMC in Atlanta Georgia released a Memorandum changing their procedures for self injections for diabetic insulin users. The change in policy was as follows; ***“Effective for new prescriptions written after September 2, 1986, you should use each disposable insulin syringe two times before throwing it away”***. The only possible reason for this new policy was budgetary. This change in procedure was a blatant attempt to cut the year’s insulin syringe budget in half. Apparently, the VA needed funds elsewhere, and decided this very questionable and risky injection procedure was a good idea. Well known Georgia veterans rights advocate Jere Beery led a successful public campaign to have this unsafe practice stopped immediately. This one small example illustrates how budget restraints affect the quality of healthcare our veterans receive. Mandatory full funding would guarantee that our veterans would never be asked to use a dirty syringe again.
Documentation; <http://jerebeery.com/va-syringe-useage.htm>
- Although the telephone has been around for well over a century, it wasn’t until 1996 that all VA hospitals nationwide were equipped with bedside telephones. Up until that time, unless you could make it to the pay phone down the hall, patients made no calls, much less receive any. In 1995, Mr. Francis Dosio of PT Phone Home and the Communication Workers of America Union took up the concept veterans activist Jere Beery had started several years earlier and launched a nationwide project to install bedside phones in every VA hospital in the country. All of the labor and equipment was donated but the story was not publicized. The VA didn’t have to pay one dime for the bedside phone project as all of

the funds were donated from the private sector. Mandatory full funding would insure that our veterans do not have to depend on charity for the most basic amenities and services.

Documentation; http://jerebeery.com/bedside_telephones_in_va_hospita.htm

- In 1998, the VAMC in Decatur, Georgia attempted to implement parking fees for all veterans visiting the facility. Vietnam combat veteran Jere Beery openly challenged the parking plan and stimulated public outrage which halted the idea before it was enforced. But once again, we see desperation by the VA to find funds while passing the cost onto our veterans. Mandatory full funding would guarantee that our veterans are never again ask to pay to access the healthcare services they have earned.
Documentation; <http://jerebeery.com/va%20parking%201.htm>
- In 2006, two veterans died after they were refused entrance and lifesaving treatment at the VA hospital in Spokane Washington. The reason; they arrived after the emergency room had closed. Mandatory full funding would insure that all VA hospitals with a pre-existing emergency room could maintain 24/7 emergency services for critically ill veterans.
Documentation; http://jerebeery.com/offe_extremely_concerned_about_d.htm
- In 1978, travel reimbursement for veterans traveling to a VA hospital for a scheduled appointment was 11 cents per mile, which was when gas was 49 cents a gallon. This reimbursement amount has remained unchanged for 29 years. In this case, Mandatory full funding would provide the funds to increase this allowance and allow for the payment of travel pay to fluctuate with the rising cost of fuel.
- Currently, the VA has a backlog of over 100,000 claims waiting processing. Many veterans are required to wait well over a year for their VA rating decision. Under-staffing is the primary reason for these delays. Mandatory funding would make it possible for the VA to hire additional staff to process and expedite claims.
- Low wages offered by the VA make it very difficult to entice and retain high quality medical professionals. Doctors, nurses, dentist, psychiatrist, counselors, and nutritionist all make significantly more money in the private sector. Mandatory funding would allow for increases in salaries which would attract more medical professionals into the VA healthcare system.
- Mandatory funding would also insure that future combat-related medical research done by the VA would not be restricted by budget constraints.

These are just 8 examples of why we need full funding of the VA. There are many more examples just like these. I hope this report convinces you to support full mandatory funding for the VA healthcare system. I encourage you to visit our web site, http://offe2008.org/public_html/resolution.htm, print out our resolution, sign it and send it to; Operation Firing For Effect, P.O. Box 77303, Rochester, NY 14617. Remember, if you do nothing, you can expect nothing to change...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2006

NY Labor Union Endorses OFFE Resolution for Mandatory Funding of VA

WWW.FIREBASENETWORK.NET

By Staff Writer: Rick Townsend

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On December 8, 2006, history was made during a labor union Christmas meeting and dinner. Sheet Metal Workers' Local 46, Rochester, New York unanimously passed a grassroots resolution aimed at full mandatory funding for veterans healthcare and services. The resolution was authored by Operation Firing Effect (OFFE), a non-profit veterans' rights service organization with headquarters in Rochester, NY. The 700 members of Local 46 are the very first labor union members to endorse this resolution.

Chris M. Hollfelder is President of Local 46, and he was instrumental in the development of the resolution. In an FBN interview, Hollfelder said that he thought this resolution would take off like wildfire. "We have passed the resolution along to our state Sheet Metal Workers Union leadership asking them to endorse and pass the resolution statewide in an effort to provide support for our veterans," Hollfelder stated.

OFFE national chairman, Gene Simes was present at the vote and signing of the resolution. "I will be frank, I was moved to tears of joy over the support our resolution received from Local 46," Simes told the FBN. "The union members are very sincere about their desire to help our veterans and they have pledged to solicit additional union endorsement nationwide," He added.



Local 46 union leaders and Operation Firing For Effect representatives Gene Simes and Bob Fink shake hands over the approval of OFFE Mandatory Funding Resolution.

Vietnam combat disabled veteran Jere Beery is OFFE Public Relations Director. "We went to great effort to write a resolution that was very focused on one issue. We wanted anyone to be able to read and understand this document," Beery told FBN.

Chris Hollfelder told the FBN that the core principles and values of our organization and our veterans were virtually identical. "Our labor unions protect the rights and benefits of their members. Our military protects our rights to do that," Hollfelder said.

Click here for your copy of OFFE Resolution > <http://jerebeery.com/offe-1P.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17, 2007

OFFE RECEIVES \$10,000 DONATION FROM PROMINENT NEW YORK BUSINESS MAN

In 2006, Jack Davis ran for Congress in New York State's 26th District. Davis spent close to \$2 million of his own money in the campaign. Jack Davis garnered an impressive 48% of the vote against a well-known incumbent. Mr. Davis, a former Marine, is also very concerned with the future healthcare needs of our former military personnel.

Today, Jack Davis met with 4 members of **Operation Firing For Effect**, a grassroots veteran's rights organization devoted to full mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system. OFFE Chairman, Gene Simes, President of Sheet Metal Workers Local 46, Chris Hollfelder, OFFE Senior Trustee, Dale Dowling, and OFFE Historian, Bob Fink spent approximately a hour and a half with Mr. Jack Davis discussing OFFE's plans to make mandatory funding a reality. At the conclusion of the meeting, Davis reached in his desk, pulled out his checkbook, and wrote a \$10,000 donation check to OFFE to help the organization accomplish their goals.

Married with 6 children and 13 grandchildren, Davis grew up in western New York and graduated from Amherst Central High School and then enrolled at the University of Buffalo and acquired a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering in 1955.

Davis spent time in the Marine Corp Reserves and Coast Guard Reserve. He left the Coast Guard Reserves as a Lieutenant in 1964. That year he founded the **I Squared R Element Company Inc.** which he still owns and manages. The company is located in Akron, New York and manufactures silicon carbide heating elements which are used worldwide in high temperature electric furnaces. **I Squared R Element Co.** is the only US owned plant making this product.

Mr. Jack Davis is challenging other corporations and businesses to follow his lead and support OFFE's efforts to insure full mandatory funding for our former military personnel.

Operation Firing For Effect is a subsidiary of **Veterans For Veteran Connection Inc.**, and is a registered 501-(c)19 non-profit organization.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2007

BRIGHTON, NEW YORK TO PASS VETERANS' MANDATORY FUNDING RESOLUTION

Brighton, New York in the county of Monroe is the first municipality in the country to adopt a resolution calling for full federal mandatory funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system.

The mandatory funding resolution will be voted on tonight during the Brighton Town Board Meeting and is expected to pass unanimously. The meeting will be chaired by Brighton Town Supervisor, Sandra L. Frankel. The Town Board Meeting will be held at the Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Avenue in downtown Brighton beginning at 7pm. The public is invited.

Once the resolution is passed and signed, copies of this document will be distributed to the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress and Senate.

Brighton Town Supervisor Sandra L. Frankel and fellow town council members are urging neighboring New York cities and townships to follow their lead and support full mandatory funding for veterans' healthcare.

As of the census of 2000, there were 35,588 people, 15,854 households, and 8,687 families residing in the town of Brighton, New York.

The mandatory funding Resolution is the creation of Operation Firing For Effect (OFFE), a grassroots veterans rights organization headquartered in Rochester, New York. OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes will be in attendance and available for questions after the meeting is adjourned.

'Operation Firing For Effect' is a subsidiary of **'Veterans For Veteran Connection Inc.'**, a registered 501-(c)19 non-profit bi-partisan organization devoted to improving and protecting the services and entitlements earned by our men and women in uniform.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2007

Senator Charles Schumer Signs 'Operation Firing For Effect' Resolution for Mandatory Funding of Veteran's Healthcare



Senator Charles Schumer and OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes meet at Canandaigua, New York VA Medical Center for Resolution Signing.



From left to right; Dale Dowling, Chris Hollfelder, Senator Schumer, Gene Simes, and Robert Fink.

On March 19th, while visiting the VA Medical Center in Canandaigua New York, Senator Charles Schumer took time to meet with Operation Firing For Effect representatives and to sign their Resolution calling for full mandatory funding of veteran's healthcare and services.

On March 8, 2007, Senator Schumer told a Washington, DC newspaper; "Nationwide, veterans are facing a healthcare funding shortfall of more than \$2.8 billion in the midst of a growing nationwide scandal over inadequate treatment of wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan", Schumer said.

Senator Charles Schumer has pledged to promote, support, and vote for full mandatory funding of veteran's healthcare and services.

Senator Schumer is merely the most recent to sign OFFE's Resolution. To date, our Resolution has been adopted and passed by several U.S. northeast cities and townships, including the Mayor of Chicago, Illinois, Richard Daley, the Governor of Oregon, Ted Kulongoski, plus over 500,000 labor union members in New York State. Visit this link to view signed Resolutions – http://offe2008.org/public_html/resolution.htm

Remember, if you do nothing, you can expect nothing to change.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2007

Colonel Harry Riley Endorses Mandatory Funding Resolution

Colonel Harry Riley might be best known for his superb leadership and spiritual guidance during the recent 'Gathering of Eagles' rally held in Washington, DC on March 17th. Colonel Riley is

also the latest American to sign a Resolution authored by Operation Firing For Effect calling for full mandatory funding of veteran's healthcare.



Colonel Harry Riley at Gathering of Eagles rally in DC on March 17th

Colonel Harry G. Riley is the recipient of the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and other awards and badges – including the Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Badge, and Army Staff Badge. He served over 34 years in the US Army. He was commissioned as a 2LT in 1966 and promoted to Colonel in 1989. He served in command positions from Detachment through Battalion level and staff assignments from Brigade to Chief of Staff Army level. He served two tours in Viet Nam and did several tours in Germany.

“Is there anything fair, noble, or just in sending our citizens to war in support of America's freedom and then failing to honor commitments to them? We place them in jeopardy of life, limb, and blood only to deny funding their Veterans benefits? Is America simply using and abusing our men and women by insisting they beg for their earned benefits? Has America fallen this callous? God help us. I hope everyone will consider signing this very important resolution,”
Colonel Harry G. Riley, USA(Ret.)

Colonel Riley is merely the most recent to sign OFFE's Resolution. To date, our Resolution has been adopted and passed by Senator Charles Schumer, several U.S. northeast cities and townships, including the Mayor of Chicago, Illinois, Richard Daley, the Governor of Oregon, Ted Kulongoski, plus over 500,000 labor union members in New York State. Visit this link to view signed Resolutions – http://offe2008.org/public_html/resolution.htm

We encourage you to visit our web site, http://offe2008.org/public_html/resolution.htm, print out our resolution, sign it and send it to; Operation Firing For Effect, P.O. Box 77303, Rochester, NY 14617. Remember, if you do nothing, you can expect nothing to change.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2007

VA Employees Union Signs OFF Resolution for Mandatory Full Funding for Veterans

The members of the Canandaigua VA American Federation of Government Employees Local 3306 voted on March 29th to align themselves with OFFE 2008 and their demand for guaranteed "Mandatory Funding" for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The AFGE Local 3306 represents 200 of the Professional and Para-professional staff at the Canandaigua VA in Upstate New York.

Annual funding has been a problem for the VA since the 1990's when VERA (Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation) was adopted by the VA to allocate funding for the department. Money was siphoned out of the northern states causing over a decade of cuts in services and programs.

Canandaigua is one of the VA's hardest hit by those cuts losing the majority of its inpatient services, both medical and psychiatric over the years. It has seen its Intensive Care Unit, Medical Unit, Emergency Room and most recently its Acute Psychiatry Unit fall victim to budget shortfalls.

Last month the union local joined forces with AFGE Local 400 from Fort Drum in Watertown, NY calling for a restoration of Acute Psychiatric Services in Canandaigua due to the return of our soldiers to Upstate NY from assignments in Afghanistan and Iraq. By DOD estimates up to 30% of those soldiers will need some type of mental health care upon their return. The loss of Canandaigua's services has and will cause a crisis for them and the community.

AFGE 3306 has called on its sister organizations nationwide to join them in a united call for Congress to stabilize funding through a Mandatory Funding Bill that will enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to guarantee that all veterans will be able to depend on Quality Healthcare that is easy to access. Check out their website at www.afge3306.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2007

Senator Hillary Clinton Endorses OFFE Mandatory Funding Resolution

New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D), is the first 2008 presidential candidate to sign Operation Firing For Effect's Resolution calling for full mandatory funding of veteran's healthcare. <http://offe2008.org/RESOLUTIONS/Clinton.pdf>



Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton

On April 10th OFFE members attended the “CARES” Local Advisory Panel Meeting (LAP) at the Canandaigua VA, here the Panel officiated by Amo Houghton presented the proposals that will go forward to Secretary Nicholson and determine the future of the veterans facility.

At that meeting Senator Hillary Clinton a featured speaker at the LAP Hearing spoke out for veterans by calling for the formation of a community committee to insure that veterans needs continue to be addressed as the VA goes forward with the campus development in the future.

In her speech to the panel Senator Clinton said; "As I have said throughout this process, it is critical that a line of communication remain open to ensure that the voices of the veterans' community are heard. Looking ahead, the premature elimination of the acute in-patient psychiatric beds makes it all the more important for the VA to seek and heed the views of the local community before their final plan for the campus is released. This community deserves to be heard today, tomorrow, and far into the future when it comes to our veterans," Senator Clinton said following the meeting. "The best way for the VA to keep the line of communication open with the very community they serve is to establish a permanent community advisory panel."

From the beginning of the VA CARES process, Senator Clinton fought hard against plans to close the facility. Last October, Senator Clinton applauded the fact that all of the options approved by the VA for further consideration maintain a presence on the Canandaigua campus and that options which would have shifted services to other sites were rejected. In February, she expressed her disappointment that the VA went ahead prematurely and executed a decision to complete the phasing out of the eight remaining acute in-patient psychiatric beds.

After the meeting, OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes presented Senator Clinton with the resolution that veterans are using across the nation to demand that Washington return VA Funding to the status it held for decades within the federal budget. That resolution calls for placing VA Funding on the mandatory side of the budget and remove it from the discretionary side of the budget where it was placed two decades ago.

On April 19th Senator Clinton came aboard the OFFE 2008 Mandatory Funding Crusade Check out the signed copy of the resolution by [clicking here](#)

Senator Clinton is the most recent to sign OFFE's Resolution. To date, our Resolution has been adopted and passed by Senator Charles Schumer, several U.S. northeast cities and townships, including the Mayor of Chicago, Illinois, Richard Daley, the Governor of Oregon, Ted Kulongoski, plus over 500,000 labor union members in New York State. Visit this link to view signed Resolutions – http://offe2008.org/public_html/resolution.htm

We encourage you to visit our web site, http://offe2008.org/public_html/resolution.htm, print out our resolution, sign it and send it to; Operation Firing For Effect, P.O. Box 77303, Rochester, NY 14617. Remember, if you do nothing, you can expect nothing to change.

Operation Firing For Effect is a Veterans Advocacy Group and a subsidiary of **Veterans For Veteran Connection, Inc.**, a registered 501-(c)19 bi-partisan veterans organization devoted to protecting and improving the benefits and services earned by our former military personnel.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2007

For more information contact:
Michael Gwinn 312-603-6383

County Board to Highlight Veterans' Programs

Board committee to hear presentation on veterans' programs and consider referendum for full funding of veterans' benefits

The Cook County Board of Commissioners will hold a hearing to highlight the needs of and resources available to veterans at 1:00pm on Tuesday, June 19, 2007.

At a meeting of the Committee on Legislation, Intergovernmental and Veterans Relations, commissioners will consider placing an advisory referendum on the February 5, 2008 Primary Election ballot calling for the full funding of benefits for all honorably discharged veterans.

"The fact that we are calling our young men and women into our country's service but not supporting them when they return home is unacceptable," said Commissioner Larry Suffredin, who chairs the Committee and is the Board's sole military veteran. "This measure gives the residents of Cook County the opportunity to express their strong support for our veterans."

This action is part of a nation-wide effort to bring attention to the lack of support for veterans programs. More information is available at www.offe2008.org.

In addition, commissioners will hear a presentation from Richard Morbidoni, the Superintendent of the Cook County Commission on Veterans Assistance, explaining what resources are available and what outreach efforts are provided to veterans in Cook County.

"The needs of the increasing number of veterans are being met with fewer and fewer funds," said Commissioner Larry Suffredin. "We must ensure that Cook County's veterans know of the resources that are available to them."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2007

Illinois Lieutenant Governor Calls Press Conference

When: Monday, July 2, 2007

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Wabash Plaza, (River Level), Wabash Drive and State Street, Chicago, Illinois

Issue: Mandatory Full Funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of ensuring that all eligible honorably discharged United States veterans receive quality and accessible healthcare and services.

Illinois Lieutenant Governor, Pat Quinn will be joined by Cook County Commissioner, Anthony Peraica, and Chicago Alderman, James A. Balcer.

All interested parties are invited to attend!

For more information, contact the Cook County Board of Commissioners at; (312)603-6384.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2007

Cook County Illinois Passes Historic Referendum for Veteran's Healthcare

On February 5, 2008, registered voters in Cook County Illinois will see the following 'yes or no' question on their primary election ballots;

“Shall the federal government be required to adopt full mandatory funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of ensuring that all eligible honorably discharged U.S. veterans receive quality and accessible healthcare and services?”

Cook County is the second largest county in the United States, and has a population of approximately 6.6 million residents. The entire city of Chicago fits within the county of Cook.

Last Tuesday, during a meeting, the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution in support of mandatory full funding of veteran's healthcare. At that same time, they also passed a Referendum to have the veteran's healthcare question (above) placed on the county's upcoming primary election ballot. Both the Resolution and Referendum passed unanimously.

“The fact that we are calling our young men and women into our country's service but not supporting them when they return home is unacceptable,” said Commissioner Larry Suffredin, who chairs the Committee and is the Board's sole military veteran. “This measure gives the residents of Cook County the opportunity to express their strong support for our veterans.”

The concept of full mandatory funding for veteran's healthcare is not a new idea. A number veteran groups has been lobbying for such funding security for over a decade without much success.

So, the battle for full mandated funding of VA healthcare is not a new story. What is new about this story is the ground-swell of grassroots support (from both sides of the aisle) the idea has received over the past year and a half. A great deal of the credit for this renewed interest and support can be directly attributed to the current mandatory funding Resolution Drive being conducted by 'Operation Firing For Effect' (OFFE).

About 18 months ago, Mr. John Monaghan (OFFE Committee Member) of Chicago, Illinois approached Cook County Commissioner Anthony J. Peraica with the idea of placing the mandatory funding question on the county-wide ballot for Cook County residents to voice their opinion on. Shortly there after, Commissioner Peraica instructed Cook County Board of Commissioners Administrative Analyst Georgiann Callaway, USN(Ret.) to put together the necessary documentation for presentation to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration and support. The rest is now history. The Cook County Board of Commissioners passed Peraica's resolution and his referendum placing the veteran's healthcare funding question on the primary county election ballot slated for February 5, 2008.

In a recent VFVC Live interview which aired on Stardust Radio just after the Board of Commissioners vote, Commissioner Peraica stated that his office is now inviting every county in Illinois to give all Illinois residents the opportunity to vote their opinion on this issue as well. "If the Referendum is adopted by all 102 counties in our state, the funding question should qualify to be placed on the 2008 general election ballot statewide," Peraica told Gene Simes. "What that will mean to Illinois is everyone that votes for the President will also have the opportunity to vote on the mandatory funding for veteran's healthcare issue. I have already contacted Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn asking for his support," Peraica stated.

According to OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes, the Cook Board of Commissioners has made a very valuable contribution toward the future healthcare needs of this country's veterans and their families. "Veteran's healthcare is not a 'special interest' issue. It is a moral promise and ethical obligation we owe our men and women that served in uniform, regardless of political affiliation. The great residents of Cook County Illinois are leading the way to insuring that we as a nation fulfill the promise and meet the obligation of quality, accessible veteran's healthcare, no matter the cost," Simes added. "We have a long way to go, and not much time to get there. We need to persuade every state in this country to adopt Cook County's Referendum within the next 120 days. I honestly believe having the veteran's healthcare question on state ballots will encourage a higher voter turnout among our veteran population in 2008. We simply must know where the candidates stand on veterans' affairs *before* we give them our votes, not after. On behalf of OFFE I salute the Cook County Board of Commissioners for their innovative and sound leadership on this issue," Simes concluded.

If you would like more information on the Cook County resolution, referendum, or you would like some advice/guidance on how to get your state/county involved, contact; Georgiann Callaway, Cook County Board of Commissioners, (312)603-6384.

OFFE would like to recognize and thank the following people and organizations for their help and support on this project; Veteran's Strike Force, Marvin Gardner, Kim Driscoll, Creola Alfalileh - Veterans for Unification, John Borg - Coalition of Veterans Organizations, Bruce Parry - American Airlines Veteran's Representative, Fred Gajewski.

Remember; if you do nothing, you can expect nothing to change.

OFFE Public Relations Director,
Jere Beery
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2007

OFFE to Launch Voter's Registration Drive in Cook County Illinois

On February 5, 2008, registered voters in Cook County Illinois will see the following 'yes or no' question on their primary election ballots;

“Shall the federal government be required to adopt full mandatory funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of ensuring that all eligible honorably discharged U.S. veterans receive quality and accessible healthcare and services?”

Last month the Cook County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a referendum placing the veteran's healthcare question on the primary ballot for the residents of Cook County to voice their opinion. The referendum was introduced to the Board by Commissioner Anthony J. Peraica and inspired by Operation Firing For Effect's current full mandatory funding resolution drive making its way across the country.

In an effort to enhance the impact and importance of the historic actions taken by the Commissioners of Cook County, OFFE has chosen Cook County Illinois to launch a nationwide voter's registration drive.

Gene Simes and the OFFE team are developing the project in cooperation with the Board of Commissioners, and the Illinois State Board of Elections. Simes is convinced the OFFE team can stimulate a record number of 2008 voters within Cook County, especially among veterans and military families.

Operation Firing For Effect is a veterans advocacy group and subsidiary of Veterans For Veteran Connection, Inc., a registered 501(C)19 corporation, headquartered in Rochester, New York. VFVC/OFFE is a bi-partisan non-profit organization devoted to the improvement and protection of entitlements, benefits, and services earned by our men and women who have worn the military uniform of the United States of America.

A detailed plan of the Cook County voter's registration drive will be released within the next two weeks.

OFFE Public Relations Director
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2007

Huntington Beach California City Council Adopts OFFE Resolution

Last week the City Council of Huntington Beach California voted and unanimously passed a motion to author a resolution in support of full mandatory funding of veteran's healthcare. The Huntington Beach resolution is expected to contain language similar to the recent resolution and referendum passed in Cook County Illinois, which addresses the exact same issue. Both Cook County and Huntington Beach resolutions were inspired by Operation Firing For Effect's grassroots resolution which is currently sweeping the country.

OFFE California Director of Operations Rusty Rustin presented the OFFE's full mandated funding concept to the Huntington Beach City Council two weeks ago for consideration. Rustin's presentation was well received by the 7 city council members; including City Council Chairman and Mayor of Huntington Beach, Mayor Gil Coerper. And last week the City Council took affirmative action on the matter.

During last week's meeting Councilman Joe Carchia commented; "After listening to everything we've heard tonight, I think this resolution is something we should be proud of. Anyone who serves his country deserves the best healthcare we can give him."

Huntington Beach is merely the latest municipality to adopt OFFE's full mandated funding of veteran's healthcare. For more information about the resolution, or to see a list of politicians, organizations, and celebrities that have signed the OFFE healthcare resolution visit; http://offe2008.org/public_html/resolution.htm Or visit our homepage at; www.offe2008.org.

OFFE Public Relations Director
Jere Beery – jerebeery@aol.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2007

American Icon Willie Nelson Supports Full Mandatory Funding For Vets Healthcare



During a recent Willie Nelson Concert in Finger Lake, New York, Operation Firing For Effect's National Chairman, Gene Simes managed to get a personal package delivered to Willie Nelson after the concert. The package contained OFFE's resolution for full mandatory funding of veteran's healthcare, and OFFE T-shirt that says; ***'Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You, Ask What Is Your Country Not Doing For Your Veterans?'***

On Monday of this week, Gene received the following message on his voice mail; "Gene, this is Willie, call me."

Gene made that call, and discovered Mr. Willie Nelson was very interested in the full mandatory funding for veteran's healthcare issue he had read about in Gene's package. Willie wanted to know how he could help Operation Firing For Effect and help insure our veterans receive the best healthcare we can give them. Before the phone conversation had concluded, Willie agreed to do a live interview during Tuesday night's VFVC Live radio program on Stardust Radio. Willie was in the midst of a scheduled concert in New Jersey with Merle Haggard and Ray Price, and told Gene he would be available at 11:15 PM.

At precisely 11:15 PM Willie (also a US Air Force Veteran) answered his cell phone and for the next 20 minutes he commented with much concern on the welfare of our deployed troops and the healthcare needs of our veterans. Several times during the interview Willie stated he was in 100% support of Operation Firing For Effect and full mandatory funding for veteran's healthcare. Mr. Nelson also promoted reusable energy as a way to cut dependence of foreign sources. Willie pointed out, if we were self sufficient with renewable energy resources right here within the United States, we wouldn't be losing American lives overseas protecting another country's oil resources. The interview concluded with Willie pledging his full support for full mandatory funding of veteran's healthcare, and a promise to help OFFE in the future.

Willie Nelson is the latest celebrity to join OFFE's Crusade for full mandatory funding of the Department of Veteran's Affairs healthcare system and services. In September of last year OFFE sponsored a veteran's rally in Newark New Jersey. Well-known celebrity Bill

Cosby (US Navy Veteran) addressed a group of several hundred veterans and family members. Mr. Cosby voiced his support for full mandatory funding for VA healthcare in a very heart-felt speech. You can read more about the Newark OFFE Rally at this link: http://offe2008.org/public_html/OFFE%20Review07.pdf

We also suggest you visit Willie's web site at: <http://willienelsonpri.com/> & <http://www.willienelson.com/>

For more information on full mandatory funding of veteran's healthcare visit: WWW.OFFE2008.ORG

To hear the VFVC interview with Willie Nelson at WWW.STARDUSTRADIO.COM in the archives section under: VFVC Onlive / OFFE 082807.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 19, 2007,

New Mexico Lieutenant Governor Endorses OFFE Resolution for Mandatory Funding of Vets Healthcare

On Friday, September 14th, acting New Mexico Governor, Diane Denish made a special visit to the booth of 'Operation Firing For Effect' at the 2007 New Mexico State Fair held in Albuquerque.

Lieutenant Governor Denish is Acting Governor for the entire state while New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson campaigns for the Presidency. The purpose of her visit to our booth was to publicly sign OFFE's resolution and voice her support for the efforts of OFFE.

OFFE New Mexico Director of Operations, Theodore Roybal organized the event, and OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes, and OFFE Public Relations Director, Jere Beery flew to Albuquerque for the signing with Governor Denish.



OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes and New Mexico Lieutenant Governor, Diane Denish at the 2007 State Fair.



Acting Governor Denish signs OFFE resolution to mandate full funding of the VA.

The brief signing ceremony was also broadcast live over Stardust Radio, which has a large number of listeners among our deployed troops and military families.

During the 12 minute special broadcast, Governor Denish voiced her support for full funding of the VA healthcare system, and she publicly challenged California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Orange County Board of Supervisors to support and endorse OFFE's resolution. She also sent out her best wishes to our troops serving overseas.



OFFE New Mexico Director of Operations, Theodore Roybal And OFFE Public Relations Director, Jere Beery

Gene Simes and the OFFE Team were warmly welcomed by the New Mexico State Fair organizers and the Governor's staff.

During OFFE's 7 day visit to the state fair, OFFE collected some 5000 resolution signatures. In addition, Albuquerque Mayor, Martin J. Chavez signed and sent OFFE's resolution in via The US Postal Service (USPS).

Governor Denish and Mayor Chavez endorsed resolutions will be posted on our web site within the next few days at www.offe2008.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2007

New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs Endorses OFFE Resolution

On Saturday, September 15th, the New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs hosted a 'Welcome Home Tribute' luncheon to several hundred returning and former military personnel and their families. The guest list for the event included dignitaries from all levels of the New Mexico military community, including two Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and several survivors of the Bataan Death March. Also in attendance was New Mexico Acting-Governor, Diane Denish and Brigadier General Kenny C. Montoya, Commanding Officer of the New Mexico National Guard.



OFFE Chair, Gene Simes, and Brigadier General, Montoya

OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes, OFFE Public Relations Director, Jere Beery, and OFFE New Mexico Director of Operations, Theodore Roybal graciously accepted the invitation to attend both the Welcome Home luncheon and a banquet honoring Latino-American veterans that was held later that evening.

New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs, Cabinet Secretary, John Garcia was the Master of Ceremonies for the two hour luncheon. Mr. Garcia is also a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran. At one point in the program, Secretary Garcia invited OFFE Chairman Gene Simes up to the podium to comment on full mandatory funding for veteran's healthcare. Simes kept his statement brief, concentrating primarily on encouraging attendee's to get involved in OFFE's campaign for full mandatory funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system. Mr. Simes also encouraged everyone

to register to vote. ‘We honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform when we participate in the free election process that their military service protects and secures for us all,’ Simes said. Chairman Simes received a hearty round of applause for the work that OFFE was doing on behalf of our country’s veterans.

After the luncheon, Secretary Garcia not only signed OFFE’s resolution, he pledged to author and introduce a similar resolution at an upcoming national meeting of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, (NASDVA). Secretary Garcia voiced his confidence that his resolution for full mandated funding of veteran’s healthcare will be passed by NASDVA in all 50 states.



OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes and Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs, John Garcia

Needless to say, OFFE’s trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico was a tremendous success. We were humbled by the response and support that we received from the Great State of New Mexico. OFFE Chair, Gene Simes and the OFFE team are extremely grateful to the people of Albuquerque for their warm and generous hospitality.

For more information on the OFFE Resolution currently sweeping the country, visit; www.offe2008.org.

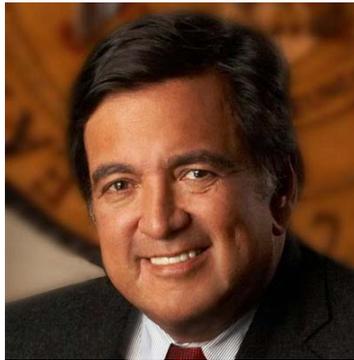
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!
September 21, 2007

Presidential Candidate Bill Richardson Signs OFFE Resolution for Full

Mandatory Funding of Veterans Healthcare

Late yesterday afternoon, Operation Firing For Effect (OFFE) received a signed resolution from Presidential Candidate, New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson's campaign headquarters. Richardson is the latest high profile politician to endorse 'Operation Firing For Effect' and their resolution for full mandatory funding of the veterans healthcare system. He is also the second Presidential Candidate to sign the OFFE resolution, joining Senator Hilary Clinton.



Presidential Candidate, New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson

OFFE National Chairman, Gene Simes, and OFFE Public Relations Director, Jere Beery just returned from a very successful trip to Albuquerque New Mexico. During the New Mexico visit, Simes and his OFFE team gained the support and endorsement of Acting Governor, Diane Denish, Albuquerque Mayor, Martin Chavez, and New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs, Secretary, John Garcia. The OFFE Team also collected a mere 5000 individual signatures from attendees at the 2007 New Mexico State Fair held in Albuquerque. According to OFFE Chair Gene Simes, Governor Richardson's endorsement makes the New Mexico effort a great success in anyone's book.

The OFFE team now has their sights focused on the remaining Presidential Candidates from both sides of the aisle. According to OFFE Chairman Simes, the American people want to hear the candidate's position on this issue before the voters casts their votes, not after.

For more information on OFFE and their full mandatory funding resolution, visit; www.offe2008.org

[NOTE: Operation Firing For Effect (OFFE) is a bi-partisan veterans advocacy group, and subsidiary of Veterans For Veteran Connection, Inc., a 501(c)19 non-profit corporation devoted to the protection and improvement of entitlements and services earned by our men and women in uniform. OFFE does not endorse political candidates running for office. OFFE does report on issues of importance to our former military personnel and their families and that includes 'News' from both sides of the

aisle. OFFE will grant equal time to any candidate (regardless of political affiliation) who wishes to share and explain their position(s) on 'veterans' affairs'.]

OFFE Public Relations Director

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