

JON RUNYAN  
3RD DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY



COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES  
  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE  
AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS  
  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE,  
OCEANS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3003

January 25, 2012

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

I am writing to strongly urge you to hold a Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Career Fair and Expo in New Jersey in the very near future.

I know you share my concern about the high rate of unemployment among our nation's veterans and I applaud your efforts in holding a Mid-Atlantic veterans' job fair in Washington, D.C. recently. Our youngest veterans are especially in need of assistance as those aged 18 to 24, had a 30.4 percent jobless rate in October, 2011, up from 18.4 percent a year earlier. Unfortunately, the short notice for the event did not give sufficient time for me to ensure that my constituents could attend, and New Jersey was left out of the Mid-Atlantic designation.

According to the VA's Veteran Population Model (VetPop2007), the State of New Jersey ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of state veteran populations. The estimated number of veterans that were living in New Jersey as of September 30, 2011 was 423,334.

As you may know, my District is home to the largest number of veterans in New Jersey and has the highest number of disabled veterans in the State. Southern New Jersey's population is growing at a rate faster than the remainder of the State, so holding the New Jersey Veteran Career Fair in Southern New Jersey would make it accessible to the largest number of our State veterans. I look forward to working with you and your staff to come up with a time in the near future for this critical Department of Veterans Affairs employment fair to take place. My staff

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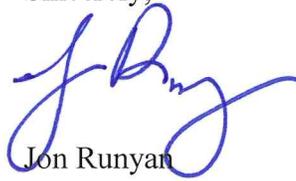
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and I are happy to work with you in helping to facilitate getting local veterans there. Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Shirley of my staff at (202) 225-4765 regarding this request.

As a Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA), I look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of the veterans of the Third District, the State of New Jersey, and all of our nation's veterans. I appreciate your time and consideration of this important matter, and thank you for your dedicated service to our country.

Sincerely,



Jon Runyan  
Member of Congress