

AMY KLOBUCHAR
MINNESOTA

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 1, 2009

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
101 West 2nd Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the kind invitation to join you for the opening of the month-long display of Portraits of Home. Although my schedule prevents me from attending, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans and Heading Home St. Louis County for sponsoring such a worthwhile project.

No matter which service a veteran belonged to, they all made tremendous sacrifices to keep our nation strong and free and we are deeply indebted to them. I have always believed that when we ask our young men and women to fight and die for this nation, we make a promise that we will give them all the resources they need to do their job – and when they return home we will take care of them. As a nation, we have an obligation to wrap our arms around the people who have sacrificed for us, and today our veterans need us more than ever.

In Washington, I am committed to making sure that we provide the financial resources necessary to care for our veterans. Among other things, I joined my colleagues to improve veterans' healthcare by supporting an additional \$3.5 billion in the FY2008 Budget Resolution and \$3 billion for military health care in this year's supplemental funding bill to strengthen and improve veterans' health care through the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

But this is only the beginning. We still have to improve treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, expand health care for veterans who have suffered multiple severe injuries and do more to help veterans make the transition back to civilian life. Just as the last Congress increased funding and support for the Department of Veterans Affairs to historic levels, the 111th Congress will continue to work hard to ensure that our veterans – and their families – have access to the services and support they have earned.

Again, I would like to thank you for your work on behalf of our servicemen and women, including those who are homeless. You are making a difference in their lives – and in so doing you are making our country stronger and prouder.

I look forward to working with you in the future on our common goal to “forever end homelessness” in Minnesota – and America.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator