

Post 9/11 Veterans Can Begin Signing Up for the New GI Bill for the 21ST Century on May 1

(Washington, DC) Last year, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) voted for the passage of the new GI Bill for the 21st Century (the "Post-9/11 GI Bill") to give a full, four-year college education to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. That measure takes effect on August 1st, but on May 1st, veterans can begin to apply for a certificate of eligibility for the new college benefits at the VA website <https://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

"I encourage all the eligible veterans in my District to take advantage of this educational opportunity," said Rothman. "We have a responsibility to serve those who bravely served us and providing these opportunities to our newest veterans is an important part of meeting that responsibility. I am glad that Congress has made an historic that will open doors for our veterans and strengthen our economy."

"Historians recall that the Post-World War II GI Bill sparked economic growth and expansion for America. The new post 9/11 GI Bill holds the same potential for today's economy by providing veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan with a full, four-year college scholarship," said Rothman. "We are also ensuring that this new generation of veterans is part of America's economic recovery. I encourage every one of them to take full advantage of these education benefits."

The measure provides up to four years of education benefits at a college or university for individuals with at least 90 days of active duty service on or after September 11, 2001 who have been honorably discharged from service. The benefits are correlated on a sliding scale to years served. To receive full benefits, one must have served on active duty for three years. This program will pay for:

- tuition and fees of up to the maximum in-state tuition and fees at a public institution in your state;
- a monthly housing allowance at the location of the school, based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents; and
- an annual books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000.

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