

Meeting with Vets for Freedom Members

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Congressman Rothman and Vets for Freedom Members Meet in DC

Pictured (L-R): Sgt Vince Micco, Congressman Rothman, Robin and Ron Griffin, and Cpt James Moran

(Washington, DC)—On Tuesday, September 18, 2007, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) met with members of Vets for Freedom, an organization of war veterans who support the President's military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Participating in the meeting were Army Reserves Sergeant Vince Micco of Rutherford, NJ, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and previous Republican candidate for U.S. Congress; Captain James Moran of Beachwood, NJ, who served in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom; and Ron and Robin Griffin, the parents of Army Specialist Kyle Griffin of Emerson, NJ who died in 2003 while serving in Iraq.

"I am enormously grateful to Sergeant Vince Micco and Captain James Moran for their service to our country and appreciate the fact that they took the time to meet with me to share their views. It was also an honor to talk with Mr. and Mrs. Griffin who have done so much to support our troops and our country," said Rothman. "While we may not agree on the President's plan to continue the deployment of U.S. troops in Iraq, we are united in support of our troops and our beloved country. All Americans are deeply indebted to our brave warriors and their families for their sacrifices"

Rep. Rothman and the group agreed that an ad campaign by the organization MoveOn that depicts General David Petraeus as "betraying" his country was undeserved. "General Petraeus has served our nation honorably and has sacrificed greatly to try to meet the President's directive to improve conditions in Iraq. MoveOn.org's questioning his patriotism was offensive," said Rothman.

During the meeting, Rothman and the New Jersey members of Vets for Freedom sharply disagreed on whether to keep U.S. troops in Iraq, but did agree on the importance of counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan and the U.S. pursuit of terrorists around the world.

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