

# Adam Smith

## Member of Congress

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July 23, 2007

Ms. Stacy Bannerman  
The Sanctuary for Veterans & Families  
PO Box 3661  
Kent, Washington 98089

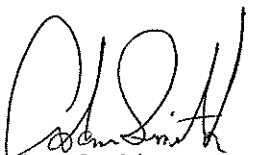
Dear Stacy,

As someone who represents thousands of veterans and their families, I believe that our nation's veterans deserve our deepest gratitude and committed support in return for their brave service.

Currently there is not enough focus on the most pressing service-related needs of our veterans. According to recent reports from the Government Accountability Office, 22 percent of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan were referred for further mental health evaluations for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and an estimated one in six service members will receive a diagnosis of PTSD. Roughly 1.6 million service members have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, of which one-third have served two tours of duty. Unfortunately, the Department of Defense has neither the facilities nor the personnel to meet the needs of returning service members with mental health care diagnoses.

The Sanctuary for Veterans and Families will provide a place for veterans returning from war, and their families, to seek support and services that will help ease the transition into post-combat life and cope with mental health problems such as PTSD. I applaud the efforts that you, and the Sanctuary for Veterans and Families, have exercised to ensure that our wounded warriors receive the care they deserve.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress