



**Veterans' Edition**  
**Spring 2012**

## **Our Mission**

### **Statement**

Meet our deep obligation to pass on to the next generation of Americans the Blessings of Liberty and Freedom.

Respect, listen to, and provide exceptional constituent service to the People of the 2nd District.

Defend those who wear our nation's uniform; Speak boldly on behalf of our veterans; Honor and remember the fallen, and Care for their families.

## **Bringing The Rigell Report Directly to You**

Friends and Neighbors,

My office often puts out an electronic report about recent news. We email it to many of the residents of the second congressional district.

But we also know that not everyone uses email as a primary communication tool. That's why we've decided to compile the most important news items from our office into one newsletter for you.

I hope you enjoy reading about what our office has been doing to serve you, the people of the second district. And I truly hope you will contact me if I can be of service.



*Scott spends time with our men and women in uniform at a recent event honoring the contributions of MLK, Jr.*

Mindful that I work for you, I remain

Yours in Freedom,

Scott Rigell

Member of Congress

**Stay informed and stay in touch! Our contact information is on the back of this newsletter.**

# The Carrier Stays! Pentagon Budget Read Out

## Pentagon Budget Strips Funding for Certain Mayport Improvements

*NO to TRICARE  
Fee Increases!*

*“The willingness with which young people are likely to serve in war, no matter how justified, is directly proportional to how they perceive how veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country.”*

*-George Washington*

In February, the Department of Defense released its FY13 budget. As you have probably heard, funding for improvements to Naval Station Mayport (with the end goal of homeporting a carrier there) was not in that budget. I cannot overstate how tremendous this news is for our region, and how proud I am to have been a part of making this happen.

After persistent and bi-partisan efforts from the Hampton Roads delegation to stop this carrier move, it appears the President has finally

recognized that spending scarce resources to improve Naval Station Mayport for this purpose is strategically unwise and unnecessary, in particular because of the budget challenges we face. I'm pleased that we have cut this project, which could have cost up to \$1 billion, from our budget.

**The Pentagon's budget also called for increases to health care fees for active and retired military members. I have said that any effort to increase TRICARE fees is a breach of trust between the government and those who have served.**





## You Are Part of American History.

### *Please Participate in the Veterans History Project!*

Visit <http://www.loc.gov/vets/> to learn how you and your fellow veterans can participate.

I want to let you know about an incredible opportunity to share your story in the military so that future generations of Americans can know the sacrifices that were made in the name of their freedoms.

The Veterans History Project (VHP) of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

The Project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars:

- World War I (1914-1920)
- World War II (1939-1946)
- Korean War (1950-1955)
- Vietnam War (1961-1975)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

#### **FAQ:**

#### **I am a veteran. How can I be interviewed?**

VHP relies on VHP Contributors to record stories of veterans. VHP Contributors include family members and friends of veterans, organizations (e.g., colleges/universities, retirement communities, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, museums, churches, veterans service organizations, and other community groups), or other veterans. Veterans may also recount their experiences in a written memoir of at least 20 pages. Visit [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets) to find out more.

#### **Is there a deadline for participating in the Project?**

No. The Veterans History Project is ongoing, and there is no deadline.

#### **How do I share the story of a deceased veteran?**

The Veterans History Project accepts original photographs and letters, memoirs, and diaries on behalf of deceased veterans. Visit the VHP site to find out more.

# Energy Independence is Vital to National Security

## *"All-of-the-Above" Energy Strategy MUST Include Harvesting Coastal Energy and Building the Keystone XL Pipeline*

We have within our grasp an incredible opportunity to boldly address two of America's greatest challenges: energy security and unemployment. These two issues are inextricably linked. We can no longer tolerate a stagnant, slow-growth economy saddled with historic unemployment rates and a dangerous dependence on foreign oil. The answer to these problems is energy -- specifically, American energy.

The President has called for an all-of-the-above strategy to energy independence. I agree! This means that we must move forward with the Keystone XL pipeline and harvesting the resources off our coast.

I recently introduced the Mid-Atlantic



*Scott admires RADM Alexander's impressive coin collection during a recent visit to Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.*

Energy and Jobs Act of 2012 (HR 3882) to begin extracting Virginia's abundant offshore energy -- the equivalent of 3.8 billion barrels of oil and natural gas according to the Department of the Interior. This legislation will help achieve American energy independence and could produce more than 18,000 local jobs according to a study by Wood Mackenzie. It also requires a significant part of the royalties to go toward improving our environment.

Last month I also signed on as an original co-sponsor to the Energizing America through Employment Act (HR 4000) to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. The Act takes the power out of the hands of President Obama, who shut down the project last month. The legislation has bipartisan Congressional support and mirrors legislation proposed in the Senate. It now goes to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration.

The Energizing America through Employment Act would approve the permit necessary to construct the pipeline which will create up to thousands of jobs almost immediately.

The time to act is now. This Congress, this President. We are Americans -- let's do this!



# The View from VA-2

Got a picture to share?  
Send it to  
[kmk@mail.house.gov](mailto:kmk@mail.house.gov)!



Scott attended the Navy League Dinner in Virginia Beach, where he discussed military issues with attendees and met MCPON Robert Walker (Ret.) (third from right), who served as the third Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, and his family. What an honor!



# Thank you, Veterans!

Need Help? Call us! We Can Help With:

- Claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Issues with the Hampton VA Medical Center
- The GI Bill
- VA Home Loan Issues
- Social Security (if you've applied for disability)
- Department of Defense questions including DFAS (Defense Finance and Accounting Service)
- Issues with TRICARE
- National Personnel Records Center (copies of DD 214 and other military records)
- Various paperwork issues with all branches of the military



*Scott meets with local military leaders at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story to discuss defense funding priorities and strategy.*

## ***Write or Visit!***

Office of Congressman Scott Rigell

4772 Euclid Road, Suite E

Virginia Beach, VA 23462

***Call!*** (757) 687-8290

***Email!*** Visit [www.rigell.house.gov](http://www.rigell.house.gov) to send us a note.

## ***Follow Us!***

@RepScottRigell on Facebook and Twitter

**We are ever mindful that we work for you!**