

# Veterans' advocates support McGovern

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U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Worcester, announces support by veterans at a news conference on Wednesday at Democratic headquarters in downtown Attleboro. At left is Attleboro Veterans Agent Carl Bradshaw. (Staff photo by Mark Stockwell)

Veterans advocates Wednesday praised the work U.S. Rep. James McGovern has done in providing health care, job training and education for troops returning from war, and urged his re-election because of it.

"Jim has been a leader in taking care of those issues," Attleboro Veterans Director Carl Bradshaw said.

"He always supports vets, and he is always open when we come in to talk to him," said Bill Dooling of Veterans of Military Families for Progress.

McGovern said it is easy to cheer for the troops when they go off to war, but it is important to support them when they return home.

"We have a sacred duty to protect those who have protected us, and that's why I've been proud to stand strong for veteran's rights over the past 14 years," he said at a news conference in Attleboro. Congress, he said, has increased funding for health care for veterans by 70 percent since 2007 and passed a 9/11 G.I bill providing more education and job training benefits.

He said his Republican opponent, Marty Lamb of Holliston, has been mostly silent on veterans' issues during the campaign.

But Lamb said he fully supports veterans' benefits, and would vote to fund them if elected.

"Anyone who has served his country deserves our highest praise and highest support," he said.

Lamb said he has visited a facility run by Veterans Inc. in Shrewsbury and served scrambled eggs to veterans there.

He said he has not issued any "position papers" on veterans' issues, but his support is strong. The third candidate in the race, independent Patrick Barron, said McGovern has a good record on veterans' issues. Barron said he would make funding veterans' programs, especially medical care, a priority.

The veterans' advocates said McGovern's support goes beyond his votes in Congress.

**Joe Barboza of Veterans Inc. said McGovern helped secure federal funding so his organization could buy a building and turn it into a homeless shelter for veterans.**

A mother who asked not to be identified said McGovern got her Marine son medical care and benefits when he returned from Iraq with post concussive trauma.

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