

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

AVIATION

HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 17, 2009

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Carl And Marcella Messer
PO Box 148
Red Level, AL 36474

Dear Carl and Marcella:

Thank you for contacting me about the Blue Water Navy Veterans, and thank you for your kind words about my work on behalf of our nation's veterans.

As Chairman of the House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am working with my colleagues on the Committee to develop a bill to authorize medical care to veterans exposed to toxins during the Vietnam and Gulf War eras. The Department of Veterans Affairs once had this authority but it has lapsed; the bill we are working on would provide permanent authority to treat these veterans. The bill will not be called the Agent Orange Equity Act because it will also include Gulf War veterans. The Blue Water Navy Veterans who were exposed to toxins will be covered by this legislation. We will be introducing this bill very soon.

I hope this information is helpful. I appreciate your support on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/ss
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