

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA



“When it comes to John McCain, I respect the veteran. I respect the POW. But I don’t respect the way he’s voted when it comes to taking care of our troops and veterans today. He claims he supports veterans, but he hasn’t. He didn’t support the recent GI Bill and he didn’t support a raise for the troops.”

**— Local 6372 President Red Nesler
Served in U.S. Army in Panama, 1969-72**

McCain wants to tax your health care. McCain wants to make employer-provided health benefits part of taxable income, imposing a new tax on working families, while giving the top 10 health insurance companies \$1.9 billion in tax breaks. (Health08.org, Forum, 10/31/07; Center for American Progress, 4/9/08)

McCain supports privatizing Social Security and raising the Medicare eligibility age. (*Wall Street Journal*, 3/3/08)

“I know NAFTA was a good idea.” McCain has voted for every unfair trade deal that has crossed his desk and supported tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. (*Des Moines Register* and *www.BigThink.com* interview, 11/07; H.R. 3450, Vote 395, 11/20/93; H.R. 4444, Vote 251, 9/19/00; S. 1637, Vote 83, 5/5/04)

McCain voted to privatize federal jobs and cut workers’ overtime pay, while voting in favor of foreign trade deals that outsource American jobs. (H.R. 5631, Vote 234, 9/6/06; S. 256, Vote 27, 3/7/05)

McCain opposed the 21st Century GI Bill and voted against increased funding for veterans’ health care in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. (ABCNews.com, 5/26/08; S.Amdt. 2745 to S.Con.Res. 95, Vote 40, 3/10/2004; S.Amdt. 149 to S.Con.Res. 18, Vote 55, 3/16/2005; S.Amdt. 3007 to S.Con.Res. 83, Vote 41, 3/14/2006; H.R. 1591, Vote 126, 3/29/2007)

“Economics is something that I’ve really never understood.” John McCain will even admit it himself—he just doesn’t get it. (“The Swamp,” *Chicago Tribune*, 12/18/07)

“It’s hard to understand how someone who served in a war himself could vote that way, but that’s been the Republican party line, and he’s sticking to it.”

—LOCAL 6372 PRESIDENT RED NESLER



For more information, visit
www.WorkingFamiliesVote08.com.



McCain HAS NOT DELIVERED ON HIS PROMISES TO VETERANS

Union members respect Sen. John McCain's service to our country. When will he start respecting ours? Although McCain talks about his support for veterans, he repeatedly votes against increased funding for veterans' health care—and more. We call on John McCain to join us in supporting our veterans and working to turn around America.

McCain REPEATEDLY VOTED AGAINST IMPROVED BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

McCain Opposes the 21st Century GI Bill Because It Is Too Generous. McCain did not vote on the GI Bill that will provide better educational opportunities to veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, paying full tuition at in-state schools and living expenses for those who have served at least three years since the 9/11 attacks. McCain said he opposes the bill because he thinks the generous benefits would “encourage more people to leave the military.” (S.Amdt. 4803 to H.R. 2642, Vote 137, 5/22/08; *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, 6/2/2008; *Boston Globe*, 5/23/08; ABCNews.com, 5/26/08)

McCain Voted Against Increased Funding for Veterans' Health Care. Although McCain told voters at a campaign rally that improving veterans' health care was his top domestic priority, he voted against increasing funding for veterans' health care in 2004, 2005,

2006 and 2007. (*Greenville News*, 12/12/2007; S.Amdt. 2745 to S.C.R. 95, Vote 40, 3/10/04; Senate S.C.R. 18, Vote 55, 3/16/05; S.Amdt. 3007 to S.C.R. 83, Vote 41, 3/14/06; H.R. 1591, Vote 126, 3/29/07)

Opposed an Assured Funding Stream for Veterans' Health Care. McCain opposed providing an assured funding stream for veterans' health care, taking into account annual changes in veterans' population and inflation. (S.Amdt. 3141 to S.C.R. 83, Vote 63, 3/16/06)

McCain Voted Against Adding More Than \$400 Million for Veterans' Care. McCain was one of 13 Republicans to vote against providing an additional \$430 million to the Department of Veterans Affairs for outpatient care and treatment for veterans. (S.Amdt. 3642 to H.R. 4939, Vote 98, 4/26/06)

Voted Against Establishing a \$1 Billion Trust Fund for Military Health Facilities. McCain voted against establishing a \$1 billion trust fund to improve military health facilities by refusing to repeal tax cuts for those making more than \$1 million a year. (S.Amdt. 2735 to S.Amdt. 2707 to H.R. 4297, Vote 7, 2/2/06)

McCain Opposed \$500 Million for Counseling Services for Veterans with Mental Disorders. McCain voted against an amendment to appropriate \$500 million annually from 2006–2010 for counseling, mental health and rehabilitation services for veterans diagnosed with mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder or substance abuse. (S. 2020, S.Amdt. 2634, Vote 343, 11/17/05)

McCain Voted in Support of Disabled Veterans Only 25 Percent of the Time from 2004-2005. While McCain claims he “has been a leading advocate” for veterans with disabilities, statistics show he supported the Disabled American Veterans’ interests only 25 percent of the time in 2004–2005. In 2006, that figure slipped to 20 percent of the time. (Project Vote Smart)

McCain Voted Against Providing Automatic Cost-of-Living Adjustments to Veterans. McCain voted against providing automatic annual cost-of-living adjustments for certain veterans’ benefits. (S. 869, Vote 259, 11/20/91)

INCLUDING BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR GUARD AND RESERVISTS

McCain Opposed Increasing Spending on TRICARE and Giving Greater Access to National Guard and Reservists. Although his campaign website devotes a large section to veterans issues, including expanding benefits for reservists and members of the National Guard, McCain voted against increasing spending on the TRICARE program by \$20.3 billion over 10 years to give members of the National Guard and Reserves and their families greater access to the health care program. The increase would be offset by a reduction in tax cuts for the wealthy. (www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/9cb5d2aa-f237-464e-9cdf-a5ad32771b9f.htm; S.Amdt. 324 to S.C.R. 23, Vote 81, 3/25/03)

MCCAIN ALSO VOTED TO OUTSOURCE JOBS AT MILITARY FACILITIES

McCain Supported Outsourcing VA Jobs. McCain opposed an amendment that would have prevented the Department of Veterans Affairs from outsourcing jobs, many held by blue-collar veterans, without first giving the workers a chance to compete. (S.Amdt. 2673 to H.R. 2642, Vote 315, 9/6/07)

He Also Supported Outsourcing at Walter Reed. McCain opposed an amendment to prevent the outsourcing of 350 federal employee jobs at Walter Reed Army Medical Center—outsourcing that contributed to the scandalous treatment of veterans at Walter Reed that McCain called a “disgrace.” (S.Amdt. 4895 to H.R. 5631, Vote 234, 9/6/06; Speech to VFW in Kansas City, Mo., 4/4/08)

AND HE REPEATEDLY VOTED AGAINST FUNDING FOR THE VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

2003: McCain Voted Against \$122.7 Billion for Department of Veterans Affairs. McCain

voted against an appropriations bill that included \$122.7 billion in fiscal 2004 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and other related agencies. (H.R. 2861, Vote 449, 11/12/03)

2001: McCain Voted Against \$51 Billion in Veterans Funding. McCain was one of five senators to vote against the bill and seven to vote against the conference report that provided \$51.1 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as funding for the federal housing, environmental and emergency management agencies and NASA. (H.R. 2620, Vote 334, 11/8/01; Vote 269, 8/2/01)

2000: McCain Voted Against \$47 Billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. McCain was one of eight senators to vote against a bill that provided \$47 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. (H.R. 4635, Vote 272, 10/12/00)

1999: McCain Voted Against \$44.3 Billion for Veterans Programs. McCain was one of five senators to vote against a bill providing \$44.3 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, plus funding for other federal agencies. (H.R. 2684, Vote 328, 10/15/99)

1996: McCain Voted Against a \$13 Billion Increase in Funding for Veterans Programs. McCain voted against an amendment to increase spending on veterans programs by \$13 billion. (S.C.R. 57, Vote 115, 5/16/96)

1995: McCain Voted to Underfund Department of Veterans Affairs. McCain voted for an appropriations bill that underfunded the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development by \$8.9 billion. (H.R. 2099, Vote 470, 9/27/95)

1995: McCain Voted Against Closing Tax Loopholes to Increase Veterans Funding by \$74 Million. McCain voted against eliminating tax breaks and closing tax loopholes to provide revenue to restore some of the proposed cuts in Veterans Affairs spending. (S.C.R. 13, Vote 226, 5/25/95)

1994: McCain Voted Against Funding the Department of Veterans Affairs. McCain was one of nine senators to vote against appropriating \$90 billion in budget authority for the Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development departments. (H.R. 4624, Vote 306, 9/27/94)