

Rouzer AWOL on Helping Veterans

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 11.19.21

On Veterans Day, Congressman David Rouzer issued a [press release](#) promising “to support vital measures to honor and deliver results” for veterans. He should put his money where his mouth is.

More than 9 million veterans are enrolled in the [Veterans Affairs health care system](#). Because of their military service, many face significant health care needs. The VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the nation, with more than 1,700 hospitals, clinics and other health care facilities. Far too many of these facilities are in desperate need of renovations. The median age of private U.S. hospitals is 11 years. In contrast, the median age of VA facilities is 58 years, with 69 percent of VA hospitals over the age of 50.

President Biden’s Build Back Better Act includes [\\$18 billion](#) for new construction projects to provide better facilities for VA medical care. The plan will immediately enhance campuses so that veterans can better access high-quality health care more quickly. And, it will totally replace 10 to 15 of the most neglected medical centers with new state-of-the-art facilities.

Just a week before issuing his hollow Veterans Day statement, Rouzer [voted against Biden’s plan](#). He tried to justify his “NO” vote by calling the plan [“entitlement spending”](#) that “will be addicting and almost impossible to repeal”. I guess he doesn’t think veterans who sacrificed for their country are “entitled” to decent health care. Then again, he’s not a veteran.

You can tell what a politician values by what he votes to spend money on. Veterans paid America back for all its blessings with military service. Rouzer paid them back with lip service.

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