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Financial Relief for Older Americans

Today, Rep. Frelinghuysen called on House and Administration leaders to suspend IRS rules negatively affecting seniors during this time of economic turmoil.

In a letter to Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson as well as Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel and Ranking Member Jim McCrery, Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank and Ranking Member Spencer Bachus, Frelinghuysen outlined his objections.

The law requires Americans 70 and ½ and older to withdraw funds from their IRAs and 401(k)s by the end of the year. In do so, the government is essentially mandating financial losses on older citizens.

“With the recent financial downturn, many Americans have seen significant decreases in the value of their investments, particularly their IRAs and 401(k)s,” said Frelinghuysen. “Traveling through my District, I have spoken to thousands of people who are concerned and scared about their financial situation. There is an immediate action we can take to lessen the pressure they feel in this time of economic uncertainty. In order to help older Americans, Congress should suspend this IRS requirement before year’s end.”

Frelinghuysen Takes Part in Picatinny Community Covenant Signing

Last Friday, Rep. Frelinghuysen took part in an Army Community Covenant Signing at Morris Knolls High School with Picatinny Commanding General, Brigadier General William Phillips. The signing was part of the Arsenal’s 2008 Army Soldier Show. The ceremony also honored four Morris County residents for their dedication to those who serve and their families.

“I am proud to be a part of the Army Community Covenant signing,” said Frelinghuysen. “The relationship between our servicemen and women, military families, Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey National Guard, and Morris County is strong, and the signing of this covenant is a fitting recognition that our community stands ready to support our military.”

In addition to Rep. Frelinghuysen, the covenant was signed by Morris Country Freeholder Director Margaret Nordstrom, Rockaway Township Mayor Louis Sceusi, Mayor William Chegwidden of Wharton, Mayor Russell Felter of Jefferson Township, Mayor Richard Leary of Mine Hill, Mayor of David Scapicchio of Mount Olive, Brigadier General William Phillips, Morris Country Freeholder Margaret Nordstrom, and Assemblyman Richard Merkt. It was also signed by representatives from Morris County schools, hospitals, Chamber of Commerce, United Way, and the Department of Family Services. Most importantly, military families were on hand to sign and participate in the ceremony.

During the event, dedicated Americans were recognized for their service to our military. Mary Mulholland was recognized for her life-long support of the military. She led efforts to raise money for the 7th Special Force’s Family Support Group.

“The work of these men and women is critical to the success of the military,” said Frelinghuysen. “The recognition given to Mary Mulholland is well deserved. She is a wonderful example of how a community can rally around their military families, and I thank her for her great efforts.”

Picatinny Named Top Large-Development Laboratory in the Army for 2008

On Tuesday, Picatinny Arsenal announced that they had received the Army's designation as Top Large-Development Laboratory.

"I congratulate Picatinny Arsenal on being named the top large-development lab by the United States Army. This honor is a tribute to their workforce, 4200 men and women dedicated to a common mission of providing our warfighters with the tools they need to be successful. I have always been proud of the work done at Picatinny and that it is located within the 11th District. The honor is well deserved, and I congratulate ARDEC Director Dr. Joseph Lannon, Brigadier General William Phillips, and the entire Picatinny workforce on their success."

This year marks the seventh time Picatinny has been recognized as the Army's top large-development lab. They also received the honor in 1986, 1995, 1999, 2000, 2004 and 2006.

Morris County

NAACP Celebrates its 77th Anniversary

Last Friday, the Morris County Chapter of the NAACP celebrated its 77th Anniversary.

"I congratulate the Morris County NAACP for 77 years of service to the community and to the cause of equality," said Frelinghuysen. "Their success is the success of our community, and the people of Morris County recognize the tremendous efforts the NAACP has made for New Jersey and America."

Reach Out and Read!

On Wednesday, Rep. Frelinghuysen joined the New Jersey pharmaceutical and medial technology industry to deliver 1000 new books to Zufall Health Center in Dover.

Zufall is part of the national Reach Out and Read program, which promotes literacy by having doctors give books to young children during medical checkups. During the event, Rep. Frelinghuysen also took the opportunity to read the new books to some of the children.

"Reading is vital to a child's success in the classroom and in life," said Rep. Frelinghuysen. "I am proud to be involved with Reach Out and Read, an organization that does such great work throughout New Jersey. It is essential that we stress the importance of reading to children at a young age and encourage them to make it a life-long habit."

Frelinghuysen Visits New Jersey Schools

Rep. Frelinghuysen visited schools in Chester, Roxbury, Bernards Township, and Byram Township this week.

"Each week, I visit with students to discuss the issues that I deal with in Congress," said Frelinghuysen. "I always come away impressed with their knowledge of the issues and their interest in government."

New York Times Article on Economic Challenges

On October 8, Peter Goodman of the New York Times ran a story titled "Taking a Hard Look at the Greenspan Legacy." I commend to your attention:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/09/business/economy/09greenspan.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

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