

Media Contact:

Seth Lynn
 813-846-2394
 seth@veteranscampaign.org

Congressional Freshmen to Include Largest Veteran Cohort Since 2010

Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans, Women Veterans Taking on an Outsized Role

SAN FRANCISCO (November 7, 2018) --The University of San Francisco (USF) and Veterans Campaign have been tracking congressional candidates with military experience and are releasing the following post-election analysis. A detailed biennial "Field Report" will be published later in the fall. "We have just elected to Congress a record number of new Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, while witnessing the largest influx ever of women veterans," said Seth Lynn, founder of Veterans Campaign and director of the USF Master of Arts in Public Leadership program. "What we are seeing today is the torch being passed to the post-9/11 generation of veterans."

USF recently partnered with Veterans Campaign to launch its online MA in Public Leadership, which is designed to both prepare students to run for elective office and for careers in legislative affairs, campaign management, advocacy and civic leadership. The program is focused on military veterans and family members, but is open to anyone committed to learning the skills needed to serve the public good.

Seth Lynn, the founder of Veterans Campaign and director of the USF MA in Public Leadership program, is available to answer questions and provide analysis.

Updates in undecided races

The following races had not been called by the AP as of the morning after the election. Winners are in bold. Of note, Jeff Denham (R-CA), Steve Knight (R-CA), and Martha McSally (R-AZ) have lost after initially leading. Jared Golden (D-ME) and Gil Cisneros (D-CA), both initially trailing, have now been declared the winners.

*Barring any unforeseen changes, we should expect (77) veterans in the House - (18) of them newly elected - and (18) in the Senate this January - the same number as are currently serving, though still fewer than were serving at the beginning of the term. **The text below this table has not been updated to reflect these status changes.***

First Name	Last Name	State	District	Incumbent	Party	Branch of Service	Status as of 11/7	Status as of 11/19
Wendy	Rogers	AZ	1	No	Republican	Air Force	Losing	Lost
Jeff	Denham	CA	10	Yes	Republican	Air Force	Winning	Lost
Steve	Knight	CA	25	Yes	Republican	Army	Winning	Lost
Gil	Cisneros	CA	39	No	Democrat	Navy	Losing	Won
Duncan	Hunter	CA	50	Yes	Republican	Marine Corps	Winning	Won
Jared	Golden	ME	2	No	Democrat	Marine Corps	Losing	Won
Daniel	Feehan	MN	1	No	Democrat	Army	Losing	Lost
Dan	McCready	NC	9	No	Democrat	Marine Corps	Losing	Lost
Gina	Ortiz Jones	TX	23	No	Democrat	Air Force	Losing	Lost
Martha	McSally	AZ	SEN	No	Republican	Air Force	Winning	Lost
Rick	Scott	FL	SEN	No	Republican	Navy	Winning	Won
Bill	Nelson	FL	SEN	Yes	Democrat	Army	Losing	Lost

Summary of Initial Findings

At least (16) newly-elected veterans will join the 116th House of Representatives

- This is the most freshmen with military experience since 2010; there were (14) in 2016 and (12) in 2012 and 2014
- As of this writing there are (6) additional non-incumbent veterans whose races have not been called by the Associated Press; however, they are all currently behind in the vote count

At least (9) new Iraq and Afghanistan veterans will join the House of Representatives

- This is the largest such influx since those two conflicts began
- By comparison, (6) were elected in 2014 and (7) were elected in 2016

At least (3) women vets will join the House, the largest such increase ever

- Elaine Luria (D-VA), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), and Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) have won seats in the House of Representatives; Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) was reelected
- If Martha McSally (R-AZ) maintains the lead in her Senate race, she will join Joni Ernst (R-IA) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), meaning at least (7) women vets in the next Congress - the largest number ever
- An additional (2) women vets, Gina Ortiz Jones (D-TX) and Wendy Rogers (R-AZ) are trailing in races that the AP has yet to call
- This influx of women veterans in Congress is especially striking when considering that before 2012 only (3) women veterans had ever been elected to Congress
- Amy McGrath (D-KY) and Mary Jennings Hegar (D-TX) both came within 3 percentage points of winning, despite running in districts Donald Trump carried by double digits
- A total of (12) women veterans earned major party nominations - the highest number ever

At least (78) veterans are likely to serve in the 116th House of Representatives¹

- This will be a slight increase from the (77) veterans currently serving but is likely to be a slight *decrease* from the (82) serving when the 115th Congress took office²
- Excluding undecided races, the partisan breakdown of House veterans will be (22) Democrats and (55) Republicans, (3) more veteran Democrats and (6) fewer veteran Republicans than at the beginning of the current term
- Of the (77) veterans currently serving, (11) did not run for reelection and Mark Sanford (R-SC) was defeated in the primary
- Of the (65) incumbent veterans who ran for reelection, (3) were defeated: Scott Taylor (R-VA), Steve Russell (R-OK), and Mike Coffman (R-CO); (3) more are currently leading in undecided races: Jeff Denham (R-CA), Steve Knight (R-CA), and Duncan Hunter (R-CA)
- (159) veterans received a major party nomination in 2018, about the same number that received a nomination in 2014 (162) and 2016 (160)³
- A detailed list of veterans in the House is included below

¹ This (78) includes (3) incumbents who are currently leading but whose races have not yet been called by the AP. It does not include (6) challengers trailing in undecided races. One of the (78) will be a non-voting delegate: incumbent Gregorio Kilili Sablan and his opponent, Angel Demapan, are both Army veterans. However, the election has been postponed due to a recent typhoon.

² Unless at least five of the veterans currently trailing in undecided races end up ahead.

³ This figure does not include candidates from Louisiana (who do not receive nominations) or nominees in non-voting delegate races. However, veterans who win these races are included in our count of veterans in Congress. Third party candidates are counted as major party nominees if they advance to the general election in states with "jungle primaries." This year there was one such veteran candidate: Ron Kabat (I-CA).

About (19) veterans will serve in the next Senate⁴

- This would be a slight increase from the (18) veterans currently serving but a slight *decrease* from the (21) serving when the current term began
- (15) veteran incumbents did not face reelection this year
- (2) veteran incumbents were reelected: Tom Carper (D-DE) and Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- (1) veteran incumbent, Bill Nelson (D-FL), is currently trailing fellow veteran Rick Scott (R-FL) in an undecided race
- (1) non-incumbent veteran, Martha McSally (R-AZ), is currently ahead in an undecided race
- A detailed list of veterans in the Senate is included below

Non-incumbent Democratic veterans faced much tougher House races

- Democratic challengers with military experience were nominated in districts that Trump won by an average of 21 percent; by comparison, Democratic challengers *without* military experience were nominated in districts Trump won by just 14 percent
- Republican challengers were in the opposite situation: nominees with military experience faced districts Clinton won by about 13 percent, while those *without* military experience ran in districts that went to Clinton by an average of nearly 22 percent

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About the University of San Francisco:

The University of San Francisco is located in the heart of one of the world's most innovative and diverse cities and is home to a vibrant academic community of students and faculty who achieve excellence in their fields. Its diverse student body enjoys direct access to faculty, small classes, and outstanding opportunities in the city itself. USF is San Francisco's first university, and its Jesuit Catholic mission helps ignite a student's passion for social justice and a desire to "Change the World From Here." For more information, visit usfca.edu

About Veterans Campaign:

Veterans Campaign, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the only non-partisan, non-ideological organization whose mission is to encourage, mentor and prepare veterans for a "second service" in civic leadership. It is an educational organization, teaching veterans and transitioning service members about civic and political leadership. Veterans Campaign's goal is to demystify the process of running for office, and make it accessible to veterans who are interested in continuing their service as elected officials. For more information, visit veteranscampaign.org

⁴ Assuming that Martha McSally (R-AZ) maintains her lead.

Veterans in the 116th House of Representatives

Number	First Name	Last Name	State	District	Incumbent	Party	Branch of Service	Outcome
1	Don	Young	AK	N/A	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
2	Rick	Crawford	AR	1	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
3	Steve	Womack	AR	3	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
4	Ruben	Gallego	AZ	7	Yes	Democrat	Marine Corps	Winner
*5	<i>Jeff</i>	<i>Denham</i>	CA	10	Yes	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Air Force</i>	<i>Winning⁵</i>
*6	Steve	<i>Knight</i>	CA	25	Yes	<i>Republican</i>	Army	<i>Winning⁵</i>
7	Mike	Thompson	CA	5	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
8	Paul	Cook	CA	8	Yes	Republican	Marine Corps	Winner
9	Jimmy	Panetta	CA	20	Yes	Democrat	Navy	Winner
10	Salud	Carbajal	CA	24	Yes	Democrat	Marine Corps	Winner
11	Ted	Lieu	CA	33	Yes	Democrat	Air Force	Winner
*12	<i>Duncan</i>	<i>Hunter</i>	CA	50	Yes	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Marine Corps</i>	<i>Winning⁵</i>
13	Jason	Crow	CO	6	No	Democrat	Army	Winner
14	Neal	Dunn	FL	2	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
15	Mike	Waltz	FL	6	No	Republican	Army	Winner
16	Vern	Buchanan	FL	16	Yes	Republican	Air Force	Winner
17	Greg	Steube	FL	17	No	Republican	Army	Winner
18	Brian	Mast	FL	18	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
19	Sanford	Bishop	GA	2	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
20	Doug	Collins	GA	9	Yes	Republican	Air Force	Winner
21	Barry	Loudermilk	GA	11	Yes	Republican	Air Force	Winner
22	Tulsi	Gabbard	HI	2	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
23	Bobby	Rush	IL	1	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
24	Mike	Bost	IL	12	Yes	Republican	Marine Corps	Winner
25	John	Shimkus	IL	15	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
26	Adam	Kinzinger	IL	16	Yes	Republican	Air Force	Winner
27	Jim	Banks	IN	3	Yes	Republican	Navy	Winner
28	Jim	Baird	IN	4	No	Republican	Army	Winner
29	Greg	Pence	IN	6	No	Republican	Marine Corps	Winner

⁵ CA10, CA25, and CA 50 have not been called by AP as of 10:15 am on November 7th.

Veterans in the 116th House of Representatives

Number	First Name	Last Name	State	District	Incumbent	Party	Branch of Service	Outcome
30	Larry	Bucshon	IN	8	Yes	Republican	Navy	Winner
31	Roger	Marshall	KS	1	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
32	Steve	Watkins	KS	2	No	Republican	Army	Winner
33	Brett	Guthrie	KY	2	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
34	Hal	Rogers	KY	5	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
35	Clay	Higgins	LA	3	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
36	Ralph	Abraham	LA	5	Yes	Republican	Coast Guard	Winner
37	Seth	Moulton	MA	6	Yes	Democrat	Marine Corps	Winner
38	Andy	Harris	MD	1	Yes	Republican	Navy	Winner
39	Anthony	Brown	MD	4	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
40	Jack	Bergman	MI	1	Yes	Republican	Marine Corps	Winner
41	Collin	Peterson	MN	7	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
42	Trent	Kelly	MS	1	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
43	Steven	Palazzo	MS	4	Yes	Republican	Marine Corps	Winner
44	G.K.	Butterfield	NC	1	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
45	Walter	Jones	NC	3	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
46	Don	Bacon	NE	2	Yes	Republican	Air Force	Winner
47	Bill	Pascrell	NJ	9	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
48	Mikie	Sherrill	NJ	11	No	Democrat	Navy	Winner
49	Mark	Amodei	NV	2	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
50	Lee	Zeldin	NY	1	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
51	Peter	King	NY	2	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
52	Max	Rose	NY	11	No	Democrat	Army	Winner
53	José	Serrano	NY	15	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
54	Brad	Wenstrup	OH	2	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
55	Bill	Johnson	OH	6	Yes	Republican	Air Force	Winner
56	Warren	Davidson	OH	8	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
57	Steve	Stivers	OH	15	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
58	Peter	DeFazio	OR	4	Yes	Democrat	Air Force	Winner
59	Chrissy	Houlihan	PA	6	No	Democrat	Air Force	Winner
60	Scott	Perry	PA	10	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner

Veterans in the 116th House of Representatives

Number	First Name	Last Name	State	District	Incumbent	Party	Branch of Service	Outcome
61	Guy	Reschenthaler	PA	14	No	Republican	Navy	Winner
62	Connor	Lamb	PA	17	Yes	Democrat	Marine Corps	Winner
63	Joe	Wilson	SC	2	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
64	William	Timmons	SC	4	No	Republican	Army	Winner
65	Phil	Roe	TN	1	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
66	Mark	Green	TN	7	No	Republican	Army	Winner
67	Louie	Gohmert	TX	1	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
68	Dan	Crenshaw	TX	2	No	Republican	Navy	Winner
69	Van	Taylor	TX	3	No	Republican	Marine Corps	Winner
70	Mike	Conaway	TX	11	Yes	Republican	Army	Winner
71	Pete	Olson	TX	22	Yes	Republican	Navy	Winner
72	Brian	Babin	TX	36	Yes	Republican	Air Force	Winner
73	Chris	Stewart	UT	2	Yes	Republican	Air Force	Winner
74	Elaine	Luria	VA	2	No	Democrat	Navy	Winner
75	Bobby	Scott	VA	3	Yes	Democrat	Army	Winner
76	Denver	Riggleman	VA	5	No	Republican	Air Force	Winner
77	Mike	Gallagher	WI	8	Yes	Republican	Marine Corps	Winner

Additionally, there will be one veteran non-voting delegate in the 116th Congress: Incumbent Gregorio Kilili Sablan and his opponent, Angel Demapan, are both Army veterans. However, the election has been postponed due to a recent typhoon.

Veterans Trailing in Undecided House Races

Number	First Name	Last Name	State	District	Incumbent	Party	Branch of Service	Outcome
1	Wendy	Rogers	AZ	1	No	Republican	Air Force	Losing ⁶
2	Gil	Cisneros	CA	39	No	Democrat	Navy	Losing ⁶
3	Jared	Golden	ME	2	No	Democrat	Marine Corps	Losing ⁶
4	Daniel	Feehan	MN	1	No	Democrat	Army	Losing ⁶
5	Dan	McCready	NC	9	No	Democrat	Marine Corps	Losing ⁶
6	Gina	Ortiz Jones	TX	23	No	Democrat	Air Force	Losing ⁶

⁶ As of 10:15 am on November 7th, the AP had not called these races.

Veterans in the 116th Senate

Number	First Name	Last Name	State	Branch of Service	Party Affiliation	Outcome
1	Dan	LSullivan	AK	Marine Corps	Republican	No Election
2	Tom	Cotton	AR	Army	Republican	No Election
*3	Martha	McSally	AZ	Air Force	Republican	Winning⁷
4	Richard	Blumenthal	CT	Marine Corps	Democrat	No Election
5	Tom	Carper	DE	Navy	Democrat	Winner
*6a	Rick	Scott	FL	Navy	Republican	Winning⁷
*6b	Bill	Nelson	FL	Army	Democrat	Losing⁷
7	Johnny	Isakson	GA	Army	Republican	No Election
8	Joni	Ernst	IA	Army	Republican	No Election
9	Tammy	Duckworth	IL	Army	Democrat	No Election
10	Todd	Young	IN	Marine Corps	Republican	No Election
11	Pat	Roberts	KS	Marine Corps	Republican	No Election
12	Mitch	McConnell	KY	Army	Republican	No Election
13	Ed	Markey	MA	Army	Democrat	No Election
14	Gary	Peters	MI	Navy	Democrat	No Election
15	Roger	Wicker	MS	Air Force	Republican	Winner
16	Jim	Inhofe	OK	Army	Republican	No Election
17	Jack	Reed	RI	Army	Democrat	No Election
18	Lindsey	Graham	SC	Air Force	Republican	No Election
19	Mike	Enzi	WY	Air Force	Republican	No Election

⁷ As of 10:15 am on November 7th, the AP had not called the Arizona and Florida Senate races.